

Sitta
carolinensis

SBv 97.419.(5)

* = what, what - what call.

Sitta carolinensis

1892
January
February 22¹ (village) - 27⁽⁸²⁾ (Moose) Concord
March 13⁽⁸²⁾ 31¹ "
April
May
June
July 4¹ 5¹ 6⁽⁸²⁾ (village) 9¹ 13⁽³⁾ 14⁽²⁾ 21⁽²⁾ 22⁽²⁾ 25¹ 26¹ 29² 30² 31² Concord
August 1² 2² 3¹ 20¹ 21¹ 22¹ 23⁽²⁾ 28¹ 29¹ 30¹ Concord
September 3² 4² 8¹ 9¹ 11¹ 16² 19¹ 21¹ 22¹ 25¹ (Catawba woods) 26¹ Concord.
October 1¹ 7² 8² 9² 10¹ 12¹ 13² 18¹ 21¹ 22¹ 25¹ Concord
November 1¹ 3¹ 9⁽²⁾ 13¹ 18⁽²⁾ 19¹ 21¹ Concord
December

Sitta carolinensis

1893.
January 10¹ Cambridge.
February
March 11¹ (Hoffmann) 14² (Fox) 22¹ (Horse plain)
April 6¹ (Moose) 22¹ (Moose) 16¹ (Fox)
May
June
July 6¹ (Buttrick's elm) 7¹ (do) 18¹ (do) 29¹ (tin elm) 31¹ (Buttrick's orchard) Concord.
August 7¹ (Buttrick's elms) 9¹ (do) 10¹ 11¹ 14¹ 19¹ 27¹ 31⁽²⁾ Concord
September 2¹ 7¹ 8¹ 13¹ 16¹ Concord.
October
November 1¹ (village) 3¹ (do) 5¹ (do)
December 8¹ (village)

1894

Oct. 12¹ 14¹ 15¹ 16¹ 17¹ (Halls H.) 18¹ 19¹ 20² 21¹ 28¹ Concord
Nov. 3¹ 4¹ 13¹ 15¹ 17¹ (Davis H.) 18¹ (Grove P.) 20¹ (Grove P.) 21¹ (Grove P.) Concord
Dec. 1¹ (Hunting House) 6¹ (Halls H.)

Sitta carolinensis

B.H. = Baldie Hill
 D.H. = Davis's
 K. = Kays place
 M. = near Mank
 } Concord.
 * = what-what-what coll.

January

9^g in Cinders on balcony of house eating bread! 14 = 17^g 20^g 1895^g 1^g W. Davis 3^g C. Lindsey 8^g 7^g 4^g 10^g 16^g 1898^g
 3^g 4^g 5^g 6^g 7^g 10^g 11^g 1899^g

February

March

31^g Kays place 1896 15^g 1^g 19^g 21^g 27^g 28^g 29^g 30^g Concord 1898 4^g 1899^g

April

18^g 1895 1^g 2^g 3^g 4^g 5^g 6^g 7^g 8^g 9^g 10^g 11^g 12^g 13^g 14^g 15^g 16^g 17^g 18^g 19^g 20^g 21^g 22^g 23^g 24^g 25^g 26^g 27^g 28^g 29^g 30^g 31^g Concord 1896 4^g 7^g 10^g 13^g 16^g 19^g 22^g 25^g 28^g 31^g Concord 1897 5^g 7^g 11^g Concord 1899

May

7^g 1898 2^g 13^g 18^g 23^g 24^g Concord 1899

June

29^g Concord 1898

Sitta carolinensis

July

August

September

October

6^g 7^g 8^g 21^g 1895
 11^g 20^g 21^g 22^g 23^g 28^g 29^g 30^g 31^g Concord 1896
 1^g 10^g 2^g 3^g 4^g 7^g 8^g 12^g 13^g 18^g 30^g Concord 1898
 12^g 13^g 14^g 16^g 17^g 22^g 24^g 25^g Concord 1899

November

1^g 2^g 3^g 4^g 5^g 6^g 7^g 8^g 9^g 10^g 11^g 12^g 13^g 14^g 15^g 16^g 17^g 18^g 19^g 20^g 21^g 22^g 23^g 24^g 25^g 26^g 27^g 28^g 29^g 30^g 31^g Concord 1896
 1^g 2^g 3^g 4^g 5^g 6^g 7^g 8^g 9^g 10^g 11^g 12^g 13^g 14^g 15^g 16^g 17^g 18^g 19^g 20^g 21^g 22^g 23^g 24^g 25^g 26^g 27^g 28^g 29^g 30^g 31^g Concord 1898
 1^g 2^g 3^g 4^g 5^g 6^g 7^g 8^g 9^g 10^g 11^g 12^g 13^g 14^g 15^g 16^g 17^g 18^g 19^g 20^g 21^g 22^g 23^g 24^g 25^g 26^g 27^g 28^g 29^g 30^g 31^g Concord 1899

December

8^g 20^g 31^g 1896 28^g 1897 31^g 1898 6^g 11^g 20^g 1899

Sitta carolinensis.

1889

April 11 Concord, Mass.

Shortly after sunset this evening I heard a Nuthatch in the orchard behind the main house and a moment later saw it fly to an old and much decayed elm on the river bank near the boat landing. Following I lay down on the grass under the tree and watched it for several minutes as it wound the usual cork-screw course around the trunk of the tree. Finally it flew upward and slipped adroitly into a hole in the under side of a large, rotten branch. It remained inside for about ten minutes at the end of which time its mate (the ♂ as I saw clearly) appeared and uttered a hawk which immediately brought it to the mouth of the hole. Presently it came out again for a moment then again slipped back in the same quiet, deft way without appearing to touch the edge of the hole with its feet. The ♂ meanwhile sat in the top of an adjoining maple, perching crossways on a slender twig, occasionally hawking. After the ♀ disappeared the second time he flew off across the river, the hole looked like that of a Downy Woodpecker, several years old, the edges somewhat chipped or frayed away. If I am not mistaken it was occupied by a pair of Swallows (H. bicolor) in 1887. I have little doubt that the Nuthatch had a nest & eggs within but I did not try to verify this partly because it would have been a difficult & dangerous task, partly because the same birds have bred at the same place for at least three seasons prior to this. (See card with) They are the only pair I know in this region at the present time

Nesting at the house.

Sitta carolinensis

Eastern Massachusetts.

1889

Mass.

May 6

Harvard. - Mr. Nathl. A. Francis found a nest in a natural cavity, the entrance large enough to admit his hand. The parent birds were visiting it at frequent intervals, taking in food to their young. Mrs. F. did not climb the tree and hence did not investigate the nest closely.

With young

" 29

Watertown. - On the Coshige farm in the old orchard west of the oak woods behind the Catholic Cemetery I found a Nuthatches nest. It was in a small apple tree and not over ten feet above the ground. The entrance was a natural cavity very round and smooth and not over 2 inches in diameter. Both parents came with food at intervals of two or three minutes, usually alternating, and slipping in and out very quietly. They seemed to be bringing the larvae of wood borers. They remained in the nest from half a minute to one minute and a half. One of them (the ♀) discovering me dropped its food and sat perfectly motionless & silent on a dead branch for several minutes although I was 20 yds away. When I retreated still further and hid behind a tree she caught another grub and took it into the hole. I approached within six feet but could not hear the young which were probably very small. When the ♀ came out she began hawking in anxious tones calling the ♂ who quickly appeared. Both then came about my head within 8 or 10 ft. I did not molest them further or examine the nest more closely. I once heard the ♂ calling what-what-what-what-what in the oak woods. The plumage of the ♀ was very ragged and worn, especially beneath where there were several partially bare places on the breast & throat.

Nest in
WatertownParents feeding
young.

June 1

Concord. -

Sitta carolinensis

1889 Mass.

June 1 Concord. - The pair at the Maase feeding young out of the nest. Young on wing
He saw only one of the latter. It looked as if four or five wing
days from the nest and could fly well but when perched
remained perfectly motionless, sitting lengthwise on a large branch
merely opening & giving its wings when its food was brought
by one or other of the old birds. It did not make any of the
sounds usual to young birds but kept perfect silence. I saw Adult catching
the old ♂ pursue a flying moth to the ground and seeing a moth
it then carry it to the young just mentioned. Twice I
heard the old ♂ give the what-what-what-what call. What call.

1890

June 10 Shadbury. Three together in an old orchard at Wayside Inn. They
were probably young birds but I did not examine them closely.

1893.

March 11 Belmont. Mr. Hoffmann heard one making the what-wat-wat What call
call and also a single loud note which he compares to the
peep of Colaptes. Tabor has also heard this Flicker-like note Hummingbird call
and has attributed it to the Nuthatch but has never like Flicker's
absolutely confirmed this inference. It must be pe-wk common
occurrence for I do not remember to have ever heard it

May 1 Belmont. Mr. Nath Francis took a set of nine eggs from a nest in Set 9 eggs
a natural hole (an old burst hole) in an apple tree ^{I only had a light for about the ground} on the Payson place
just across the avenue from the "porter's lodge". He cut the hole out
at about midnight (for obvious reasons) and had some difficulty in
getting rid of the bird who clung closely to the nest and screamed
(dangerously) when seized. The eggs are perfectly fresh.

" 9 Brookline. Another set of nine eggs taken by Gordon Plummer. Set 9 eggs
in an oak about 40 ft above the ground.

Massachusetts.

Sitta carolinensis.

1892.

- July 27. Concord. This morning I went to Ball's Hill by boat. At the Wamee landing I found a pair of Nuthatches and three Leucichadeus, the former going in and out of holes & evidently thinking of the near approach of their nesting season.
- July 30. A pair of White-bellied Nuthatches visit these elms every morning with great regularity arriving at about 9 A.M. and spending most of the forenoon. The male today gave the what-what-what call twice.
- Sept 25 Practically all my records this year of White-bellied Nuthatches relate to birds seen in the elms in front of our house or in the trees about the Wamee but this morning I found a solitary bird in the heart of the Estabrook woods.
- Oct. 10. There was evidently a flight of White-bellied Nuthatches today. I saw four different birds, three in Estabrook woods.

Sitta carolinensis.

Concord, Mass.

Building nest.

1896.

Apr. 7.

I started for Ball's Hill at the usual time but was detained at North Bridge for over an hour which I spent watching a pair of Nuthatches. The female was busily engaged most of this time in bringing out some long, fibrous material (which looked like fine shreds of inner bark) from a hole high up (40 to 45 ft.) in the old elm which stands at the east end of the bridge. This hole was apparently an old knot hole which had been enlarged by Red Squirrels for its edges showed the marks of their teeth. I think the Nuthatch was removing their nest for the material looked like the bark shreds which they use but I was puzzled by the fact that the Nuthatch instead of dropping these shreds carried them in large bills-full to the upper side of the branch where she spread them out and tamped them down with some care. She had evidently been at work for some time for when I arrived the upper side of the branch was covered with the strands for a space of two feet long by six or eight inches wide. It occurred to me that possibly she had spread them out here to dry for otherwise why did she not fling them down to the ground? Moreover she deposited them on the sunny side of the branch. After finishing this work she flew away with her mate. When I returned from my trip down river late in the afternoon only one small patch - less than a tenth of the total material - remained on

Sitta carolinensis.

Concord, Mass.

1896. the branch. The rest might have blown away but this is not
Apr.7. probable for the tree was well sheltered by the pine grove to
(No.2). the eastward along the avenue and although the wind had risen
to its full strength before I left the spot in the morning
the shreds were not disturbed by it.

Sitta carolinensis

1896 Mass.

March 31 Concord. - Late last autumn ~~Miss~~ Maria Hayes hung a large piece of suet in a tree in front of the dining room window. Chickadees, Downy Woodpeckers & a pair of Nuthatches visited it regularly during ^{the middle of October first in February} the winter. The male Nuthatch was calling ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha in the orchard this forenoon, which I was expecting very much.

April 1 Hearing the Nuthatch this morning I followed up the road and found a pair of birds in the apple tree near the east end of the greenhouse. This tree divides into two stems a few feet above the ground. On the under side of one of these stems at a height of about 15 feet is a round hole about the size of a Hairy Woodpecker. It enters at a place where a branch was sawed off some time ago but it does not include the whole of the scar. It looks as if it had been pecked out but the edges show no fresh wood but, on the contrary, are dark & charred. The ♀ Nuthatch peeped into or entered this hole very minutely or twice. Then I stood under the tree she showed evident anxiety. Once she took in ^{several} long strips of the inner bark of an elm which ~~flames~~ were not far off. The male was with a near her most of the time. As she was clinging to the edge of the hole he brought her a large white grub which she accepted & ate. I heard another male Nuthatch in the village to-day.

" 7. During the past week I have seen or heard Nuthatches at the Hayes place or near the Manor frequently, sometimes at both places on the same day. I supposed there were two different pairs until this morning when I saw the pair leave the Hayes orchard & fly one towards the Manor and an hour later the birds at the Manor fly off across the river & meadow towards the Hayes orchard. Apparently, therefore, they are the same birds but if so

He put off a number of pieces of lard apple tree bark & after carrying them about put them in the hole & even tampered with them in with his bill

Sitta carolinensis

1896

Mass.

April 7

(no 2)

Concord. - it is difficult to understand this behavior for when I reached the Mouse grounds this morning I found them inspecting a hole high up (40 to 45 ft.) in the large elm which stands by the river at the east end of the North Bridge. Presently the ♀ entered it and began bringing out some long fibrous strands of what appeared to be inner bark such as Red Spruces use for their nests. Perhaps it had done duty as a ♀ squirrel's nest for this hole - an old lewist hole - showed evidence and rather fresh marks of a squirrel's teeth about its outer edges but if the Nuthatch was merely clearing out this debris ~~with~~ the intention of replacing it with a nest more to her own taste she went to a deal of unnecessary trouble for instead of dropping or flying off with the bark she carried it to the upper side of the branch where she spread it out in the sun as if to dry, tampering it down with so much care that the east wind which was blowing rather strongly at times scarcely disturbed a shred of it.

She worked busily in this way for half an hour bringing bundles of the bark away as large as her body at each trip. At the end of this time the whole upper surface of the large trunk was covered with the light reddish brown shreds for a space two feet in length by six or eight inches wide. The ♂ Nuthatch did not assist at this labor but he kept near his mate & encouraged her labors by an occasional ha-ha-ha-ha-ha-ha. Finally both birds flew off towards the House floor.

At about 5 P. M. I revisited the old elm & found only a small patch of material - less than a tenth of the original quantity - remaining on the branch. The rest may have blown away but this is improbable for the tree was somewhat sheltered by the pines & the wind did not rise during the day. The Nuthatches were absent this evening.

Sitta carolinensis

1896 Mass.

April 20 ~~was~~ Concord. 8.30 to 9 a.m. The ♀ Nuthatch building her nest in the apple tree over the Hayes house. She was bringing long strips of apple tree bark from the tree in the orchard near by, tacking them into the hole one at a time. The male did not assist her.

" 11 Noted the hole in this apple tree for some time this morning. The ♀ came over bearing nothing in her bill, entered & remained inside for over a minute then came out & flew away. I infer that the nest is finished.

The birds did not lay in this nest although when I examined it April (see journal) it appeared to have been completed. They finally settled in the den by the North bridge (cf. journal)

Sitta carolinensis.

1896. Mass.

April 1 Concord. - From 9 to 11 A.M., the weather clear & warm on the river, nest
I saw a pair in the apple orchard near the George Hayes house. building
together & singly they made frequent visits to a hole in an old
apple tree - the ♀ carrying in long strips of winter bark torn from
a neighbouring elm. The ♂ meanwhile was also busily engaged
collecting bark but he deposited it in shallow holes & crevices
in various places taking warm into the nest. When thus occupied
he frequently paused for a moment to utter his ringing wat-wat-
wat-wat-wat. Once he took a large white grub to the ♀
who accepted & ate it. The ♀ was apparently very anxious or
nervous about the nest building, it every minute or two pausing
in a cackling & immediately withdrawing again. The encounter
was repeated but frequently round entering the hole of a large
upright limb about 10 ft. above the ground within a branch hole
over been sawed off & occupying only the central position of
the scaffold surface. It had evidently been pecked out &
very recently but rotted by the White-bellied & was I cannot
say. This nest was abandoned by the birds a day or two
later. I think one of them was caught by a cat but
this is only a suspicion on my part.

1906

April 11

Concord. - A pair of Nuthatches are haunting the large elms in
front of our farm house as they have done for several years
past at this season. While climbing about among the branches
of these trees in search of food, sometimes in company with mate
and sometimes alone, he utters almost incessantly a double
call hē-hē, hē-hā, hē-hā etc. This is quite distinct from
his wat-wat-wat-wat-wat song. I do not hear the
♀ give the doubled note. She uses only the monosyllabic
ank and certain indescribable low grunting calls also
uttered by the ♂. These Nuthatches do not breed in our elms
or apple trees but I think they have a nest somewhere in the woods.

Sitta carolinensis.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898. Frequently heard calling near the house on Ben Mere farm
July 5 through July and the first week of August. Also heard at the
to
Aug.15. Howards', July 29th.

Lake Umbagog.

Singing in autumn.

1898. At Lakeside this morning I heard a White-bellied Nuthatch
Sept.15. calling what-wot-wot at short, regular intervals for ten or
fifteen minutes.

Sitta carolinensis

1889 Mass.

Dec. 16 Mt. Graylock. - During a forenoon's tramp of two or three miles in different directions Taxon & I each saw three of these Nuthatches or six in all. Two: any birds were a pair which kept close together, the third a single ♂ bird; Taxon's were also a pair & a single. All six were in old-growth hardwoods, beech, yellow & paper birch, rock maple etc. on the mountain side at an elevation of about 2300 ft.

1890

N. H.

Dec 30
Tarry

Lamworth. - A single bird seen by Batchelder & Bolles.

1900 Mass.

Feb. 16

Brockton. When I was calling on the Misses Kendall this afternoon a ♀ Nuthatch approached a pair of Juncos hanging from a vine on the piazza, near the parlor window, and finding a House Sparrow eating, the Juncos began sidling around it in a curious manner with tail widely spread and wings half-opened. Miss Kendall said that it was trying to drive the Sparrow away, and that after behaving in this manner for a little while it usually struck at the Sparrow with its bill but it did not do so on this occasion although it approached within reach of the Sparrow.

Throats &
House Sparrows

1901

Maine

Feb. 24

Bethel. - Found a pair in old growth maple and yellow birch woods on a hillside near a lumber camp.

Cooper &
Baker

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

9. *Sitta carolinensis* Gmel. WHITE-BELLIED NUTHATCH.—Common
in the hard woods at Grand Falls. Breeding.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, April, 1882, p. 109

Last Dates Migratory Birds observed by
E. D. Wintle, Fall 1885, Montreal, Can.

Oct. 18. White-bellied Nuthatch,
seen occasionally throughout the
winter here.
O. & O. XI, Mar. 1886, p. 44

Birds, Haute Island, Bay of Fundy, July
26, 1887. W. L. Bishop, Kentville, N. S.

White-bellied Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis*;
rare.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 146

A Collecting Trip—Dec. 1887.
John Ewart, Yarker, Ont. Can.

Nuthatch. Only saw two specimens, which
I did not shoot, but think they were the white-
breasted variety.

O. & O. XIII, June. 1888 p. 94

Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont.
A. E. Alberger.

727. White-bellied Nuthatch. Tolerably
common.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 48

Newfoundland Notes. A Trip up the
Humber River, Aug. 10—Sept. 24, 1899.

46. *Sitta carolinensis*. WHITE-BREADED NUTHATCH.—Common.

Louis H. Porter, New York City.

Auk, XVII, Jan., 1900, p. 72.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James W. Fleming.
Part II, Land Birds.

Auk, XXIX, Jan. 1907, p. 86

277. *Sitta carolinensis*. WHITE-BREADED NUTHATCH.— Winter and
fall resident, September 16 to March 16; no summer records except from
July 10 to 21, 1892.

Summer Birds Tim Pond Me. by F. H. C.

White-bellied Nuthatch, (*Sitta carolinensis*).
Not common.

O. & O. XI. Feb. 1886. p. 25.

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C. 9.

11. *Sitta carolinensis*, (White-bellied Nuthatch).
This species was seen in both spring and summer.
They were as often observed in the deep woods as
in the clearings, although the latter offered more
suitable nesting sites. They were not observed
in the southern or middle portions of either
county, seeming to occur only in the wilder lo-
calities about Dead river. Only two nests were
found, one of which was unfinished in lining.
Both nests were old holes of the Downy Wood-
pecker in dead birch stubs in old clearings, in
which was placed a mass of material consisting of
feathers, moss and hair.

O. & O. XI. Aug. 1886. p. 115

Sitta carolinensis. - Saw one. Shelburne, N. H. Aug. 8-29-1865. R. D.

Shelburne, N. H.

Sitta carolinensis H.

1884

July 17. Shot a young ♂ in first plumage in a sugar maple grove bordering Ingersoll's Brook. It was alone, feeding busily, and handling exactly like an old bird. No others were seen in Shelburne but I believe I noted several others in 1882.

Mt. Washington, N. H.

Sept. 12. 1884 One seen among the rocks about 200 yds. down the carriage road from the summit (E. P. Bicknell) 12.

Sitta carolinensis

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 79

Sitta carolinensis.—Quite common.

Birds Obs. at Moultonboro, N. H.
July 21-Aug. 11, 1883. F. H. Allen

10

White-bellied Nuthatch, (*Sitta carolinensis*).

O. & O. X, Jan. 1885. p. 14

15.

77. *Sitta carolinensis*. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—Not very common.

Ank, V. April, 1888. p.153

5.

Sitta carolinensis.—Quite common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 77

17.

White-breasted Nuthatch, scarce.

O. & O. Vol. 17, May 1892 p. 72

Univ. of Calif. Press, A. J. R.

Theory of the W -boson

1107 Pithe. Carolinensis

No note on Nuthatch are given under
Notes from Hydenville Va. by L. G. Tracy

O. & O. X. Jan. 1885. p. 10.

Winter Birds of Southeastern Va. 1885

White-bellied Nuthatch,

A. T. Johnson. Hydenville Va.

O. & O. X. Apr. 1885. p. 63

White-bellied Nuthatch, Va.

76. * Sitta carolinensis. WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH. — Common.

by Anna C. Howell.

* File Mrs. Carrie E. Straw of Stone, Va.

3. *Sitta carolinensis*. ^{1 Cont.} ^{16.} ^{1 M.} Nov. 4, 10, 17, Dec. 29 E. Mass. 1884.

19.

12. *Sitta carolinensis*. E. Mass. 1885. ^{1 Band} Feb. 5, ¹ 21, ² 23 (1885)

20.

W.C.C. (The Glass Co.)

Sitta carolinensis - 21.

1885-

May

Chadbourne found a nest in the Fresh Pond
grove (hemlocks). The birds were apparently feeding
young but he was unable to reach the nest.

Mass. (Middlesex Co.)

Sitta carolinensis 23.

1886

Breeding!

April 27

A Nuthatch (*S. carolinensis*) seen at Concord to-day must have been breeding. It was working among the branches of a gigantic elm by the "Minute Man" bridge exactly where the fight of Apr. 19, 1876 occurred. It was evidently feeding. I watched it a long time but it would not go to the nest, if nest it had. It was a ♂. The trees as well as others near, had several tit-like looking holes.

(About two weeks ago Purdie saw a bird of this species in Haver-)

Mass. (Lyngsboro)

Sitta carolinensis 23.

1886

July 24

Saw two in the village.

Mass. (near Concord).

24.

1887

* = at Mans.

April 7¹/₈

Sitta carolinensis

Mass. (near Concord).

24.

1887

May 9¹/₈ - 28¹/₈.

June 4¹/₈ - 13¹/₈ - 18¹/₈.

July 3¹/₈ - 4¹/₈ - 23¹/₈ - 24¹/₈ - 26¹/₈.

Aug. 12¹/₈ - 13¹/₈ - 15¹/₈ (18¹/₈ Rock) - 17¹/₈.

* near Old Mans.

x = bringing what-what-what-what.

Sitta carolinensis

1887

Nov. 18th

1888

Feb. 13th

Apr. 8 (Middletown, Newham) 2 (Millsbury, Duxton)

Oct. 26th - Nov. 6th - 12th*Sitta carolinensis*.

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

June 25-30, 1889.

Sitta carolinensis

27.

July. An adult ♂ July 1 in the woods and was seen again July 14. He and some young passed right by me. I saw a wandering bird. This was the only specimen observed during or after 7 days in this region.

Sitta carolinensis. (White-bellied Nuthatch.) A nest found by me contained four eggs. I took them all and put in a wooden egg and in that way I managed to get twelve eggs. The nest was in a hole two feet from the ground and measured two by two and one-half inches. S. M. Comstock
W. H. Greenfield, Mass.

O. & O. VIII. Sept. 1889 p 71

Winter Birds of Eastern Massachusetts.

H. K. Job.

I have been interested for the last few years in noticing the irregular movements of our Nuthatches in winter. One season both kinds were present; another followed in which the White-bellied species (*carolinensis*) was common, but in which no Red-bellies (*canadensis*) were seen. I did not see one of either kind during the whole of the next winter, but in the last the Red-bellies were abundant, while the others hardly occurred at all. The cold evidently does not drive them from us, for it is during the severest winters that they seem to remain. What then does influence them?

Bull. N. O. C., 8, July, 1889, p. 149.

Winter Notes from Taunton, Mass.

J. C. Brahm.

A few Nuthatches put in an appearance in November, but I have not seen them since.

O. & O. XI. May. 1886. p. 77

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Sitta carolinensis (Lath.), White-breasted |
Nuthatch. Migrant, tolerably common. |

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 141

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire
Co. Mass. June 28-July 18. W. Faxon

70. *Sitta carolinensis*. WHITE-BELLIED NUTHATCH.—Not common.
Killed one near the carriage road not far from the summit of Graylock,
July 10, and saw a pair with young in the Hopper, July 9.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 105

Sitta carolinensis

breeding in Watertown, Mass.

1903]

Copy of original data sent by

Mr. N. A. Francis, Feb. 20, 1903.

Mass.

"No. 727 Set No. 228

Common { White breasted Nuthatch,
Scientific Name { Sitta carolinensis,

Town, Watertown - County, Middlesex.

State, Massachusetts - Locality, Apple
tree near Bay State Riding & Driving
Club, Adams Estate.

Nest in a knot hole in an
apple tree about 5 feet from
ground and about 6 inches deep,
built of hair and soft material
and at the bottom of the hole.

No Eggs, 9. Condition, fresh.

Identification, saw bird -

Date, May 1st, 1893.

Collector, Nathaniel A. Francis.

punctuation inserted -

eggs

ta.

nesting,

1st it

usual

Sitta carolinensis [Feb. 20, 1903].

breeding in
Watulow Mass.



Mr William Brewster

Dear Sir

I have the set of eggs
mentioned and send you the data.
As I have just renumbered my collection,
the set number is different from what it
used to be, but the data is the original
one

Respectfully

Nathaniel C. Francis

Little Crested NewtJune 4² Fairfield" 9¹ Saybrook" 10² Andover

Everywhere rare although the
afternoon old growth oak & chestnut
woods have admirably adapted to
its requirements. Clark says that
it was formerly much more
common than I have seen it
nowhere else.

(Hensley's)

Birds observed in Naval Hospital
Grounds, Brooklyn. G.H. Coues.

23. *Sitta carolinensis*. WHITE-BELLIED NUTHATCH.—Quite rare.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 32

Birds at Fort Hamilton, L. I., Berrier.

^{Fall}
The ~~winter~~ 1879 was remarkable for the
unusual numbers of

White-bellied Nut-hatches (*Sitta carolinensis*),

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Jan., 1881, p. 12.

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
O. H. Merriam.

14. *Sitta carolinensis*, Gmelin. WHITE-BELLIED NUTHATCH.—Breeds,
but not common.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 226

Birds Toga Co, N. Y. Alden Loring.

51. White-bellied Nuthatch. Common. Stays
with us the entire year and lives on bugs, cat-
terpillars and worms.

U. S. O. IV, June, 1890, p. 81

4. *Sitta carolinensis*. WHITE-BELLIED NUTHATCH.—In a communication recently received from Mr. A. K. Fisher, he informs me of an albino specimen of this species, which is the first I have heard occurring in the *Sittidae*. It was taken near Sing Sing, N. Y., Nov. 5, 1879. It was pure white, except a narrow dark stripe on the crown.

Bull. N. O. C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 27



**Peculiar Plumage of the Florida
White-Billed Nuthatch.**

(*Sitta Carolinensis*.)

42.

By C. J. MAYNARD.

Last autumn while in Florida I discovered, much to my surprise, that the female Nuthatch of this species had a perfectly black head. Quite a number of specimens were secured and all, excepting one, which was slightly clouded with ashy, had the head as pure black as the males; in fact there is no difference in the plumage of the two sexes, excepting that there is a little less black on the tertiaries of the females. From typical Northern Nuthatches of this species, Florida birds differ in being smaller and in having a little less chestnut on the flanks. Although I have never seen a female from New England with perfectly black head, I have seen the top of the head slightly slaty.

The Naturalist in Florida,
St. Augustine, Nov. 1884
Vol. 6 No 2 p. 5 Change here.

Notes from Connecticut.

Sitta carolinensis. Two young females with the crown black and almost as lustrous as in the male were taken in East Haven on Nov. 17, 1900, and Dec. 19, 1905.

Louis B. Bishop, New Haven, Conn.
Auk, XXIII, July, 1906. p. 345.

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Summary Obs. on Birds Gulf Coast
Florida. W.E.D. Scott.

Sitta carolinensis atkinsi, subsp. nov.

FLORIDA WHITE-BELLIED NUTHATCH.

After carefully considering the representatives of *Sitta carolinensis* that occur in the region about Tarpon Springs, there appear to be such constant and regular deviations in color, size, and relative proportions of the different parts, from the representatives of the species collected from Massachusetts southward to North Carolina, that I feel warranted in calling attention to so well marked a form as occurs in this portion of Florida, and in suggesting the recognition of a new subspecies to be called *Sitta carolinensis atkinsi*. This name is given to record in a slight way my great appreciation of the careful work done by my friend Mr. John W. Atkins of Key West, on the birds of that portion of Florida.

Types, 3940 (Coll. W. E. D. S.), ♂, Tarpon Springs, Florida, April 21, 1887; 3164 (Coll. W. E. D. S.), ♀, Sept. 27, 1886, Tarpon Springs, Florida.

General characteristics.—Average of wing, as compared with northern birds, .20 in. smaller in males, .15 in. smaller in females. Bill relatively much longer and slenderer. Light markings of tipping of the coverts and quills of the wings decidedly narrower. A little less white in the tail. In the female birds the black of the top of the head and nape is pronounced, and it is difficult to distinguish the sexes easily, and in some cases impossible, by the color of these parts.

Average size of *Sitta carolinensis* as given by Mr. Robert Ridgway (Manual N. A. Birds): Wing, 3.60; tarsus, .72-.75; culmen, .84 inch. Wing, culmen and tarsus of four males and five females from vicinity of Tarpon Springs:

				Wing.	Culmen.	Tarsus.
3940.	♂ ad.	Tarpon Springs, Fla.	April 21, 1887.	3.28	.72	.70
3163.	♂ ad.	" "	Sept. 10, 1886.	3.40	.74	.68
7579.	♂ ad.	" "	Jan. 1, 1890.	3.44	.71	.69
7578.	♂ ad.	" "	" " "	3.38	.73	.71
3161.	♀ ad.	" "	Sept. 17, 1886.	3.40	.69	.70
3165.	♀ ad.	" "	" 27, "	3.34	.78	.70
3510.	♀ ad.	" "	Oct. 21, "	3.30	Broken.	.72
3164.	♀ ad.	" "	Sept. 27, "	3.21	.72	.68
5000.	♀ ad.	" "	Feb. 13, 1888.	3.26	.73	.69

Of these five females 3161, 3165, 3164, and 5000 are all deep lustrous black on head and nape without traces of grayish or plumbeous washing, while 3510 has these parts slightly suffused with plumbeous.

A young male nestling bird taken on April 21, 1887, just after leaving the nest, has the black of head and nape only slightly less lustrous black than in the adult birds.

The variation in the Florida form is mainly in the direction of the western subspecies *aculeata*, but the bill is less attenuated; the gray of the secondaries is purer, and there are other minor differences of coloration.

The birds do not appear to be common about Tarpon Springs, but are residents, and breed early in March.

Auk, VII. April, 1890, p. 118-119.

Sitta carolinensis. WHITE-BELLIED NUTHATCH.

The first positive suggestions of awakening spring are often sufficient to entice this bird into song, such as its song is—a running repetition of a single note. But the result is nevertheless agreeable, the notes possessing a mellow or resonant quality, and, at a season when few birds are to be heard, is a conspicuous and characteristic sound. The bird's eagerness sometimes leads it to place confidence in a January thaw, when its song-notes may sometimes be heard; but these premature beginnings are usually followed by many dreary days of silence. December 22, 1882, and January 11, in the mild winter of 1880, are the earliest dates I have for the first song. On the latter occasion the performer had partially emerged from the entrance of an old Woodpecker's nest, and not improbably had been influenced by the suggestions of the situation. I have several times noticed Bluebirds in song at unusual times while engaged in inspecting retrospective or prospective homes.

Though with the Nuthatches singing may not be fully instituted until the latter part of February, individuals are usually to be heard on fine days about the middle of the month, even if the preceding weather should have been severe.

This species is not constantly abundant with us, and at times seems to be altogether wanting, so that absence of song may imply silence only in the sense of there being no birds to sing. The species was abundant in the season of 1879, which was of normal character, and may thus be taken as a representative one. Full song was first heard February 16, and again March 2, after which singing was constant to the middle of the month, thence decreasing towards the end. In April and May, song-notes were heard on several separated dates, extending through the former month, and up to the 11th day of the latter. These appeared to conclude the season of song; but on several days of early July brief song-notes were heard. Similar apparently exceptional dates were recorded in another year, and a close approach to the true song-notes was once heard on July 23. It is probable that these late notes were from the parents of delayed broods. I have no record of the song-notes for a later period of the year, and in some years I have not heard them later than March. The usual call notes are a nasal 'Yank-Yank.'

I find the Nuthatch all through the winter almost without fat. When fat is present it is of a clear, pale sulphur color, while that of the Red-bellied Nuthatch is more opaque and of a deep orange-yellow.

Ank, I, April, 1884. D. 135-136.

Notes from Jewett City, Conn.

WHITE-BELLIED NUTHATCH. On Monday, May 19th, one of my young friends, a farmer's boy, who is somewhat interested in oölogy, asked me if I knew what kind of a "Woodpecker" laid speckled eggs? I told him that I had never known a Woodpecker to so far depart from the established customs of its family as to lay other than pure white eggs.

He said he had found a nest in a hole in an apple tree containing nine eggs. They were white with reddish spots, and according to his notion, incubation was pretty well advanced, for he admitted that he had broken three while trying to blow them, and declared that they could not be blown. From his description of the birds and eggs I felt certain that he had found a nest of the White-bellied Nuthatch, (*Sitta carolinensis*), so I went with him and he generously gave me three of the eggs. There were no doubts in my mind, after seeing the eggs, as to what species laid them. I experienced very little trouble in blowing them, although they were somewhat incubated. This was the first nest of the White-bellied Nuthatch that I had ever heard of in this part of the state, and I learned with regret that both of the parent birds were shot "for the purpose of identification." Within two weeks after learning of this nest I was informed of two others that had been found. Each contained nine eggs.

Chas. Edward Prior.

O. & O. IX, Aug. 1884, p. 100.

WHITE-BELLIED NUTHATCH.—My first nest was found in April, 1880, but thinking it too early for eggs I waited until May, when young rewarded me. This nest was in a large natural cavity in an oak tree, about twenty feet high. The nest was composed principally of a sort of felt-like substance, mixed with some bark and lined with hair. It was about 100 yards from the second nest, collected April 26, 1882. This nest was in an enormous white oak, on a hill-side, and fully fifty feet from the ground. The entrance was a knot hole, in the live wood, about $2\frac{1}{2} \times 2$ inches. The cavity inside was quite large and was nearly filled by the nest, which was composed almost entirely of oak bark and a lining of hair. The nest contained six fresh eggs, which I secured by means of a rude wooden spoon. They were, before blowing, of a rosy-white color, spotted thickly with reddish brown. The birds showed much solicitude, frequently coming within a few feet and rapidly repeating their usual note.—L. R. Rich, Saratoga Springs, N. Y.

O. & O. VIII. Apr. 1883, p. 51

hours more watching this bird on the 23rd but did not see it go near the hole. Nearly all the following afternoon was spent in this woods. Both birds were seen and the male was noticed giving the female a bit of food as they were clinging to the trunk of a tree. I also saw the male enter the knot-hole into which my friend saw it go. The next day I watched the hole a short time and saw one of the birds carry in a bit of bark. On May 1st I followed one of the pair for some time; it did not go near the knot-hole but, two days later my friend saw one enter it, so I determined to settle all doubt about the matter. On May 7th I strapped on my spurs, ascended the tree and cut open the hole, only to find a large handful of oak bark without any sign of a nest. I did not pursue this pair any further.

On April 23rd while returning home through the woods from watching the above birds, I heard a low note uttered and looking up saw a male Nuthatch on the trunk of a large chestnut tree, eyeing me suspiciously.

Moving around to the opposite side of the tree I saw a knot-hole in the trunk, thirty-five feet from the ground, and very soon was pleased to see the bird creep to the edge of this hole and look in, then it flew off, but returned shortly with a bit of bark which it dropped in the hole. On the following day I observed it again and saw it carry something into the hole. Fearing that if it was left any longer I would find only young birds, I climbed to the hole on the 25th. The entrance was but two inches in diameter and the bottom could not be seen, so I was obliged to cut it open. This was accomplished after hacking fifteen minutes with a dull hatchet, while I clung to the trunk with the assistance of one hand and the spurs. Looking in I saw that the cavity was a natural one and enlarged from the entrance downward and inward. At the further end of it, ten inches from the entrance, and in the middle of the tree, was the little nest. It was composed of fine strips of inner bark and bits of rabbit fur. I was much grieved and vexed too, however, to see that it was empty; I was too early. While removing the chips that had fallen in I caught the side of the nest accidentally and had dragged it out before I knew it. I felt that this ended all possibility of the birds returning to nest in this cavity. However, hope was revived when as I was passing the tree on May 1st, both birds were on it. On the 7th I determined to see if a new nest had been begun. Imagine my surprise and delight on seeing that there was another nest and it held eight eggs.

The pair must have started working at their second nest immediately after the first was destroyed. I thought it very strange that they should return to this hole after my hatchet had made such a great alteration.

The nest was not disturbed until the 9th, when as it still held the same number, the eggs were taken. On blowing them it could be seen that they were incubated evenly, about five days as the eyes and soft bones were formed.

The bottom of the cavity where the nest was built was about eight inches wide and the space not occupied by the nest was thickly covered with bits of bark such as I had found in the other hole.

Whether or not this pair had the courage to nest here again I do not know, as I did not visit the place again. Each visit to these woods required a walk of four miles, so everything considered, it is not surprising that I look on these eggs with so much esteem.

O. & O. XII, Nov. 1887 p. 189-190.

The American Bittern in Oswego Co., N. Y.

BY C. C. MAXFIELD, WILLARD, N. Y.

The Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*), is as far as my observations go, not a very abundant inhabitant of Oswego county, although found under favorable conditions in most of the swamps of the county, but rather hard to find. Several have been taken in a swamp three or four miles directly north of Phoenix. This place is not more than half a swamp, but is composed of extremely swampy woods, and also many acres of meadow that is annually overrun with water, some of which remains the whole year. There is a small creek running through it.

I secured a fine specimen, a male, in the spring of 1885, in a very small swale, which is completely dried up in the summer months,

Hall's nest was found, containing ten eggs, all slightly incubated; no fresh ones.

The Bittern usually rests in some marsh, adjacent to a stream of water or swamp. Nest composed of dry and green grass in about equal proportions. Nest is raised above the surface of the ground from six to eight inches and completely covered over with dead, dry grass, only leaving an opening in one side for the entrance of the bird.

The nests found in this vicinity, for the finding of which we are indebted to Benj. F. Hess, have only contained two and three eggs, all of which were fresh, showing a possibility of the sets not being full ones.

The eggs are of a light creamy, brown color, and vary somewhat, but the average with us is 2.10×1.63 .

My Experience with the Breeding of the White-breasted Nuthatch.

BY HARRY K. JAMISON, MANAYUNK, PHILA., PA.

Looking over the results of my season's collecting, I find that I prize my set of White-breasted Nuthatch's (*Sitta carolinensis*) eggs above any other set taken. It was only after a long period of patient watching that they were finally secured and for that reason they are valued highly.

On April 3rd I noticed a pair of these birds in an open woods, and knowing that it would soon be time for them to nest, I sat down to watch them. In a short time one of them entered a knot-hole in the trunk of a maple tree, fifty feet from the ground. During the next half-hour both birds entered this hole several times and brought out bits of decayed wood, which were either placed in a fork just below the entrance to the hole or taken off some distance into the woods. A week later I watched this tree three hours and during the balance of the month visited it several times, but did not see a bird near it again, so I did not consider it necessary to climb up and examine the cavity.

On the 17th of April I saw one of the birds, probably of the same pair, about two hundred yards from where I had seen them first; it kept in the tops of the tall trees, continually uttering its notes. Not having the time to spare I sent a friend to follow the pair. On the 20th of April he saw but one bird and watched it three or four hours. Twice, at an interval of half an hour, he saw it enter a knot-hole in a limb of a chestnut tree, sixty feet up. I spent three

THE WHITE-BELLIED NUTHATCH CONCEALING FOOD.—While collecting in Waltham, in November, I observed a *Sitta carolinensis* feeding on a small dead locust-tree. It finally went to the end of a broken limb and took therefrom quite a large larva, which it tucked into a crevice, bent the bark upon it, gave a few light raps over the place, and then proceeded to do the same with two more larvae.—W. B. Dowse, Boston, Mass.

Bull. N. O. C. 2, Jan., 1879. p. 61.

April 1888.]

AND OOLOGIST.

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chose was in a much finer condition than any neighboring ones. I never heard of a Brown Thrasher in such a densely populated locality.

The White-breasted Nuthatch.

Sitta carolinensis.

By C. M. JONES, EASTFORD, CONN.

The Nuthatch is so retiring in its habits that it fails to secure the attention to which its character entitles it, for it has a character of its own, and is really a very interesting bird. Occasionally, either in summer or winter, it makes us a short call, and runs nimbly up and down the shade trees about our dwellings, uttering its unmusical but cheerful "hwank." But it is really a bird of the woods, where it roams at will in the highest tree tops or down to a rotten or a decaying log, and rarely hops along on the ground. The trunks and larger branches of the trees, however, are its principal foraging grounds. At all times, it seems to be burdened with the conviction that the chief end of Nuthatches is to work. It is seldom seen at rest, though I remember, on one occasion, watching one for a considerable time, as it hung head downward, on the side of a tree, apparently asleep.

These birds commonly go in pairs the year round, and probably remain paired for life. When one is seen, it is quite certain that the other is not far off, and by listening a few minutes it may usually be discovered. Much of the time they keep pretty near together, frequently in the same tree, and when one leads off to another place the other will soon follow. While engaged in this work, they may frequently be heard chattering in a low, conversational manner, apparently very edifying to themselves but not intended for other ears, since the notes can be heard at only a short distance. But when the winter is over and gone, and the milder weather begins to loosen the Ice King, the Nuthatches are quick to feel the change. And though the winds may be high and the atmosphere chilly, their loud notes can be heard ringing through the woods, often the only notes to be distinguished above the roaring of the winds.

In the latter part of April, household matters begin to occupy much of their time. As to the locality of their home they are not very particular. It is usually in the woods, sometimes in more open land; always in a cavity in a tree, and almost invariably in a live tree, where a

dead limb has rotted out. Once I found the bird nesting in a dead stub, in what looked like an old woodpecker's nest, the only departure from the general rule that I have seen. They are quite indifferent as to altitude; anywhere from six to sixty feet, or even more, from the ground. Sometimes the entrance is barely large enough to admit the bird; at others, so large as to allow a person to insert his hand. Some of their nesting sites are so situated, the entrance being at the under side of a limb or leaning tree, as to entirely protect them from storms; and yet the birds do not seem to take this into consideration at all in selecting a nesting place, for I have seen nests so exposed that the rain could readily beat into them, and I remember one in particular placed down in the crotch of a tree in such a situation that not only could it rain into the nest, but more or less of the water running down the two upright stems would fall into the cavity.

The nest itself is a mass of fine material, such as hair, rabbit's fur, and the inner bark from dead trees, the whole forming a soft, but rather inartistic bed for the young. In this are deposited the eggs, from six to eight in number, seven being the more common. Different clutches vary somewhat in size, owing doubtless to the age of the bird, and some are more highly marked than others. Fresh, unblown eggs have a beautiful pinkish tint which entirely disappears when the contents are removed. Usually in this latitude the eggs are deposited, and incubation begins by the eighth of May, but I have known a cold, backward season to cause a delay of ten days.

At the season of nest building, I have often seen the birds busily engaged in picking off small pieces of bark from trees and carrying them into holes, as if they were engaged in building a nest. At first I supposed they were using this material as a foundation, but in no instance has this proved true, for I have invariably failed afterwards to find a nest or any proper nesting material in these places. What object they can have in such work I do not understand.

Some years ago I witnessed a very odd performance by one of these birds. It was in the latter part of April. I was sitting down in a piece of heavy timber and watching a pair of Red-tailed Hawks which had a nest there, when a Nuthatch flew into a very large chestnut tree near by, and immediately ran into a small hole about a dozen feet from the ground. I had not much more than time to wonder why she had chosen that for a nesting place, when

The White-Bellied Nuthatch a
Friend of the Farmer. 36

At this time of the year when the cocoons of the tent caterpillar are to be seen on every farm the White-bellied Nuthatch is particularly useful, destroying as it does large numbers of these cocoons. Tearing them from their fastenings they drag them along the rough bark of the tree until they catch, then pulling at them, and in this way tear off all the outer covering of the chrysalis, which they devour with apparent relish. These together with the numerous other insects which go to make up their daily food particularly recommend them for protection on the farm.

S. R. Ingersoll.

Ballston Spa, N. Y.

O. & O. IX, p. 117.

Winter Notes from Stephentown, N. Y.
Benjamin Houg.

Indeed extermination has advanced rapidly during the past ten years. Last fall I stood a sunflower stalk, crowned by a mammoth seed head, up against the crotch of one of the apple trees in the yard, and for about a month a pair of White-breasted Nuthatches have made daily visits to the yard to feed on the seeds. They are getting quite tame, and will come to the stalk for seeds when I am standing so near I could touch them with my hand. After picking out a seed they fly to a large elm twenty feet away, stick it into a crevice of the rough bark, and then hammer it open with their bill, devouring the contents, seemingly, with great gusto and a profusion of Nuthatch talk.

I noticed last winter that the Nuthatches did not eat all of the seeds which they carried to the big elm, but left many wedged in the crevices of the bark. I found later that they had a purpose in doing this, as they made frequent visits to the tree to feed on them until along into the summer.

O. & O. Vol. 18, Jan. 1898 p. 12

Notes of the "Pamhandle" N. Y.

JAN. 9. There have been but few days this winter I have not seen one or two White-breasted, Black-capped Nuthatches, (*Sitta carolinensis*), moving up or down and around the larger branches of a row of locust trees in front of the parsonage on the village street. To-day, from my study window, I witnessed an interesting performance of one of these birds—not three yards from me, its effort to break a small particle of matter, of the size and shape of a butter-bean, it had picked up from the ground. Its position was on an oblique limb; holding the substance in its bill it would strike it two or three times against the limb

and then momentarily lodge it, repeating the performance perhaps a dozen times. The curious thing about it was its ability to lodge at will, and with such rapidity, that bit of matter on a limb sloping, perhaps, at an angle of forty-five degrees, without the aid of its feet and with nothing but a slight unevenness of bark to hold it. This would require the steadiest nerve of a man to do, if he could do it at all.

Rev. H. C. Howe, Framingham, N. Y., 1880.

O. & O. IX, Mar. 1884, p. 157

39. Feb. 12. Day stormy. Went out to Highlagg Park. Only saw two White-breasted Nuthatches. This bird is common here throughout the year. The only nest I ever found was in a decayed tree stump in the most uninviting and gloomy part of a large woods. The eggs, seven in number, were of a handsome white color, covered thickly with fine spots of light brown. It is called Sapsucker here, as it is said to bore holes in trees and suck the sap as it oozes out. Now if it does bore into trees while feeding (a thing I have never seen it do), it is probably to secure insects concealed in the wood. It is a very restless and active little bird and for boldness and sauciness is rivalled only by the Chickadee, often allowing the observer to approach within a few feet of it.

The bird is to Michigan
Sapsucker (H. C. Howe, 1880, p. 117)

Notes—Winter Birds, Milwaukee County
Wisconsin. C. A. Keeler, Berkeley, Cal.

White-breasted Nuthatch, *Sitta carolinensis*. Very common all winter. A few winters ago a pair remained in the neighborhood of a farmer's house for several months. The owner was in the habit of putting bread crumbs and oats in exposed situations for them. The bread crumbs were always eaten on the spot, but the oats were stored in nooks and crevices in the back of oak trees. I have also known this species to feed on frozen thorn apples, when other food was scarce, swallowing them entire.

O. & O. XIII, Jan. 1888 p. 12

Common Names of American Birds .. Ingersoll.

This brings me to the *Sittidae* or *Nuthatches*—birds that “hack” or “cut” nuts, perpetuating an error so far as this family is concerned.* In *Tomtit* (Ohio Valley) and *Sapsucker* (Maryland) for these birds, other errors are indicated. Buffon’s *Torchepot* (“pot-cleaner”) perhaps alludes to the smutty black of the face. *Chipinnee* is a good name I have heard in Southern Massachusetts, describing its well-known note very accurately.

* Though it is true enough that it is an “error” so far as the general woodland habits of the *Sittidae* in the United States are concerned, yet I know of opposing instances. For example: My neighbor in New Haven this winter has been accustomed to feed a colony of gray squirrels by placing nuts of various sorts on his window-ledge, whither they go after them. The *Nuthatches* discovered, and two or three came regularly all winter, feeding upon the broken nuts and often flying away with large fragments in their beaks. They would frequently place a nut in a corner of the window-frame, where it would rest firmly, and then hammer at it with their pickax-beaks most sedulously breaking the shells of the lighter sorts, and crushing the inner septa of the heavy kinds like hickory nuts. They did not seek worms, but fed greedily upon the substance of the nut-kernel.

Dec 1, 1900, 8, April 1900, p. 76-77.

Bay State Oologist. 1509. *The White-breasted Nuthatch*. By J. W. Jacobs. *Ibid.*, pp. 3-4. *Ank*, VII. Jan. 49, 1890. p. 10.

511. *The Nidification of Nuthatches*. By W. W. Dunlop. *Ibid.*, pp. 122, 123, 137, 138. *Can. Sport. & Naturalist* Vol. II.

703. *White-bellied Nuthatch*. By L. R. Rich. *Ibid.*, p. 31.—Its nest and eggs, taken at Saratoga, N. Y., described. *O. & O. Vol. VIII*

1939. *Nesting of the White-breasted Nuthatch*. By J. Warren Jacobs. *Ibid.*, No. 10, October, 1888, pp. 119-120. *Hawkeye Orn. & Oologist*, 1888.

346. *Notes from Maryland*. By Edgar A. Small. *Ibid.*, VI, p. 79.—Nesting of White-bellied Nuthatch reported, with notes on the breeding of other species. *O. & O.*

1030. *Notes on the White-breasted Nuthatch*. (*Sitta carolinensis*). By John H. Steele. *Ibid.*, No 4, p. 26. *Rand. Notes Nat. Hist. II*

2010. *White-breasted Nuthatch*. [By R. D. Housh.] *Hoosier Naturalist*, No. 2, March, 1888 [p. 5].

952. *Bird [Nuthatch] in a Mouse Trap*. By A. H. G. *Ibid.*, Nov. 27, p. 344. *For. & Stream*. XXXIX.

A Provident Nuthatch—Visiting Central Park on the morning of November 28, 1898, after a snowfall of $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches, I carried a quantity of bread for the birds, and nuts for the squirrels. The squirrels did not appear until nearly noon, but the birds were quite ready for breakfast at 9.30 A. M. While crumbling bread for the White-throated Sparrows, who were exceedingly hungry and gave loud calls of delight, summoning their friends to the spot, a fine Fox Sparrow came and ate greedily.

In a few moments a White-breasted Nuthatch came and hopped about on a tree trunk, calling, *youh, youh, youh*, rapidly, as if greatly pleased, then he flew to the snow, seized as large a piece of bread as he could carry, and flew high up in a tree some distance away. I expected to see him eat it, although in all my experience with birds in bad weather I had never seen a Nuthatch eat bread, though they often eat bits of nuts thrown to them, and are very tame. This wise fellow hunted till he found a suitable cranny, then poked in his bread, and hammered it down several times with his bill. When he got it well stored, he went back to the tree near me, calling *youh, youh*, as if to say, "more please." Then I threw him a piece of pecan nut in the shell, and he took it at once, flew to another tree and looked till he found a hole, hammered it down as he did the bread, and returned for more. After the operation had been repeated many times, I was forced to walk and warm my feet, for the birds were so fascinating I had stood an hour in the snow.

Returning to the spot sometime afterward, the White-throats were singing, and the Fox Sparrow was tuning up too. As they were still feeding, I crumbled more bread, and soon the Nuthatch reappeared, and at intervals carried off pieces of nuts, storing each in a separate tree.

When my bread and pecans were distributed, I walked away and found some squirrels and gave them chestnuts. Mr. Nuthatch appeared again, and came low down on a vine, hanging his head off sideways, and calling loudly to attract attention. I threw him half a chestnut which he took immediately, and after a long search found a safe place in a cherry tree. He went off awhile, but later returned and took a whole chestnut and went so far I lost sight of him. I walked away and returned in a half-hour to the place. The Nuthatch came again and called, and took chestnuts several times and hid them.

Since writing the above the Nuthatch appeared on three consecutive days, and took bread and nuts many times and hid them. Unfortunately a friend and I saw a squirrel find his cache, and rob him twice.

Can any reader tell me if it is possible for Nuthatches to store their treasures where squirrels cannot get at them?—F. HUBERTA FOOTE, *New York City*. *Auk*, XVI, July, 1899, p. 283.

Auk, XV, April, 1898, pp. 144-155

THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF THE WHITE-BELLIED
NUTHATCH AND BLACK-CAPPED-CHICKADEE.¹

BY E. DWIGHT SANDERSON.

THE value of our common birds as insect-destroyers has of late years come to be recognized as an important field of investigation for the ornithologist and a large item in rural economy. Much valuable work has been done in determining their economic relations, but there has also been a large amount of assumption by various writers based on insufficient data. It is my purpose in this thesis to determine the character and amount of food and the economic relations of two of our most common residents, the White-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta carolinensis* Lath.) and the Black-capped Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus* Linn.) from the analysis of the stomachs of 34 specimens of the former, and 28 of the latter, notes taken while collecting them, and incidentally from as much reliable data as could be found elsewhere.

METHOD OF ANALYSIS.

In no instance was any food found in the true stomach, mouth, or gullet, and the only part containing food was that ordinarily

¹ A Thesis submitted to the Faculty of the Michigan Agricultural College.

ground much of the time; while the last eleven were secured during the spring (April 10-17), before the foliage was out. The contents were tabulated and two totals made, showing the difference in seasons. I had wished to secure specimens during the

Canadensis

Sitta canadensis

1889

April 1st - 30th - 1889.

May 5th (Bonds) 1889.

Aug. 20th - 1889.

Dec. 1st - 6th (Hatch) - 13th 1889. 10th (Hatch) 1893

Jan'y 7th (Hatch) 26th (Hatch) - 27th 1890 25th (Hatch) 1891

Feb. 18th 1890 11th (Hatch) 1893

March 17th 1890 18th 27th 1893 31st 1897

April 1st 1893 14th 1894. 6th 7th 8th 10th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th Concord 1897

May

June

July

August

September 1st (Hatch) 22nd (Hatch) 23rd (Hatch) 25th 28th Concord 1892 21st Concord 1899.

October 7th 1892 12th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 29th 30th Concord 1896

November 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th Concord 1897

canadensis

1889 Mass.

Dec. 1 Cambridge. - Just before sunset I saw two Red-Bellied Nuthatches at work among the cones of some Norway Spruces on the Old Chateaux place. They would alight directly on the cones and tug away at one of the scales until it became loosened when very quickly and apparently easily they would extract the seed allowing the scale to drop to the ground. Each bird after getting a seed regularly flew to one or the other of two loose-barked trees near at hand and depositing the seed under a scale of bark gave it two or three taps to force it well in and then flew back to the spruces for another seed. One bird in this way visited a butternut tree five times in succession placing each seed under a different piece of bark. The other bird deposited two seeds under the bark of an apple tree. They were very silent while thus working. Finally they flew off together. These Nuthatches are the only ones I have seen hereabouts this autumn although within the past ten days I have repeatedly looked for them in Belmont, Arlington, & Waltham. ^[They are found there rather numerous in early autumn in Belmont.] I heard one in my lindens last August, however. They were very numerous at Umbagog through October from which I inferred that there would be no autumnal flight through Mass. I am inclined to think there has been none and that the birds seen to-day are wanderers, from Worcester Co. possibly. Excepting the Crossbills I know of no irregular visitor to E. Mass. which is so altogether erratic in its migratory movements as the Red-Bellied Nuthatch. It comes to us literally every month in the year taking a series of years into account.

Extracting
seeds from
spruce cones

Hiding seeds
under bark

Erratic
migratory
movements

Sitta canadensis

1889 Mass.

Dec. 13

Ashby. - Four, two pairs, one pair in company with 5 Chickadees At Ashby

the other with 5 Chickadees, four Kinglets (*Sitta*), and two Creeps. All in white pine woods near the village.

One of the ♂♂ was engaged in removing seeds from a white pine cone and storing them in crevices of the bark of the same tree. The cone was not in situ but had fallen from above and lodged in the forks of a dead branch about 15 ft. from the ground & four or five feet from the trunk of the tree. The Nuthatch would extract a seed, roll it over once or twice in his bill until the wings were broken off and floated off with the wind, then flitting to the main trunk and clinging against it head downward he would push the seed gently into a crevice in the bark or into a patch of gray lichen and after looking about for an instant as if to make sure that he was not observed, would drive it firmly in by three or four vigorous strokes of his bill and immediately return to the cone for another seed. He made several trips each minute and while we were watching him stored about 20 seeds, all in three places which were only a few feet apart and on the same trunk. He was silent ^{when about to} when at work but after finishing his task and starting on to visit his Chickadee friends he relieved his feelings by a long succession of the usual whining cries.

Mr. Fayon, who was with me, thinks that the bird stores pine seeds because the pine cones are apt to open later and the seeds to fall to the ground and become covered with snow. In this particular case the pine cone ^{finally} fell ^{as} after the bird was at work on it. He did not follow it to the ground.

Storing white
pine seeds

Sitta canadensis

1889
Dec. 15-16

Mass.

Mt. Graylock - Abundant everywhere over the mountain sides but most numerous in the spruce timber where they were feeding on the seeds of the cones, sending the scales floating down to the snow beneath, in this way often first attracting my attention. They were mostly in pairs (always a ♂ & ♀) but I saw a few single birds and once three together. On the 16th I counted fifteen during a walk of about a mile. ^{and I have seen about as many more.} These seen among spruces seemed to be eating the seeds but the ♂ of a pair out with in birch and maple woods was storing the seeds of a yellow birch in the trunk of a neighboring birch. The majority of those found in hardwood timber were engaged chiefly, however, in running up and down the stems of big yellow birches, hammering off scales of loose bark, pecking at rotten places and evidently feeding on larvae or wood borers.

This Nuthatch opens and shuts its wings with a nervous, flicking motion very like that of a Kinglet. This motion is most frequently observed when the bird is running down a vertical trunk or perching crosswise as it frequently does, on a slender twig. It also usually accompanies the strokes of its bill when it is hammering a seed into the bark. Probably the wings are opened chiefly if not wholly to preserve the bird's balance.

The Red-bellied Nuthatch is a more active bird than *S. carolinensis*. It is silent at times, often for ten or fifteen minutes in succession, then begins its whining chant or calls tay-tay-tay-tay an indefinite number of times, the cry being taken up or answered by others in various parts of the woods. On the 16th I found a pair of *S. carolinensis* in various parts of the woods. ♂ & ♀ of a pair of *S. carolinensis*

Habits

Sitta Graylock

Abundance

Eating seeds
of yellow birds

Nervous motion
of wings

Sitta canadensis

1890 N.H.

Jan'y Tamworth. Abundant (Batchelder and Bolles)
Mass.

" 26 Wellesley. - Three seen and others heard among Norway Spruces On the
on the Hunnewell place. (Benton) Hummel place

" 27 Cambridge. - A ♂ in fine plumage, very red beneath for the season, In my garden
feeding among pear trees in my garden this morning.
He was entirely alone as far as I could discover and stayed
in the garden for ten or fifteen minutes.

1895 Maine & New Hampshire.

Sept. During this month I found them withalobes exceptionally numerous
at B. Umbagog & Foxon reported them as swarming among the
White Pines. The crop of Spruces was very abundant. No birds
have been seen in E. Mass. up to date (Dec. 1/55). No doubt they
will spend the winter at the north.

1896 Conn.

Feb. 3 Portland. - Sage's collector & localities "Saw 6 Red Breasted Nuthatches
in one tree [this day]. I have never known these species so
abundant [here] before" (Jas. H. Sage letter Feb. 3, 1896)

In an earlier letter, written about Dec. 25¹⁸⁹⁵, I think, Mr. Sage
also spoke of their exceeding abundance about Portland.
Strange to say I have not heard of a single bird in E. Mass.
this winter nor did I meet with any at Concord in
October & November although Foxon reported a few Striped
in the Arlington region during the autumn. It is
perfectly safe to say however that no real flight has
visited E. Mass. this year. Where did the Conn. birds
come from? R. Hebe Howe visiting Shelburne N.H.
Christmas week (1895) found them Nuthatches, swarming
there then which shows that they are likely to spend
the winter there.

Sitta canadensis.

Cambridge, Mass. Fresh Pond Grove.

1893. I found a small flock of Chickadees and with them a male

Jan. 22. Red-bellied Nuthatch and a Brown Creeper. The Chickadees and Nuthatch were busy picking the hemlock cones to pieces, sending the scales floating down to the snow beneath and doubtless eating the seeds. Only one other Nuthatch of this species has been seen hereabouts this winter, although they were abundant last autumn, the flight doubtless having passed much farther south (cf. Shufeldt in Auk for Jan. 1893).

Mar. 17. In the densest part of the grove a Red-bellied Nuthatch appeared flitting from tree to tree. He was a fine male and evidently the same bird seen by me in this grove Jan. 22, and by Hoffman Feb. 11. He descended to the ground and rambled about over a wide space pecking the fallen hemlock cones to pieces for their seeds. He moved by a series of quick hops and quite as easily and gracefully as a Sparrow. The coloring of his under parts is much paler than it was when I last saw him in January. After returning to the trees he relieved his feelings by indulging in the long, drawling whine peculiar to the species.

Sitta canadensis.

"Did I ever tell you of my first experience with one(the Red-bellied Nuthatch)? It was one September afternoon on the steamer to Yarmouth (Nova Scotia) and a pair took refuge in the rigging when we were way out of sight of land. One in particular became so tame that one of the men on board caught him several times and he would finally perch on the man's finger and peck around and under his nails and then flew away to the flowers in my hat and pecked round in them. At sunset they found places to roost in the rigging and in the morning were gone as we were near land". Extract from a letter by Mrs.Elizabeth J.

Worcester to William Brewster, dated Waltham, April 1, 1901.

Concord, Mass.

1897. W. Bartlett tells me that Canada Nuthatches wintered commonly near Concord. I left three or four birds in the Ball's Hill region last November, and found them there on my return this spring. They have remained through April (I saw three Apr. 25th and one Apr. 30th) haunting chiefly Benson's pine ridge and Davis's Hill. On several occasions one of them has visited the cabin to feed on some mutton fat which I hung up in the oak in front of my door to attract the Chickadees and Downy Woodpeckers. *I also saw them catching flying insects on April 25th.*

Sitta Canadensis

1930. Penobscot Bay, Maine.

Deer Island - June 23 ^{1 hour} ~~morning~~.

Sitta canadensis.

A Red-breasted Nuthatch catching insects on the wing.

Whitefield, N.H.

1897. This morning I walked up the Lancaster road through the
Aug. 27. woods for a mile and a half. As I was strolling along, at about 11 o'clock, in a spot where the woods were comparatively open, I saw, on a dead branch close by the road, a male Red-breasted Nuthatch, and for over a half an hour I watched him busily engaged in catching insects. There were two dead Tamaracks, covered with drooping lichens, one on either side of the road, and near these were White Birches, Firs and a Large-toothed Aspen. These and the road between constituted the scene of action. The sun was streaming down pleasantly and I stood still in the middle of the quiet country road and with glass in hand remained an interested spectator.

The Nuthatch preferred the Tamaracks for a resting-place, though he often lit on the branches or trunks of the neighboring trees. He would sail out into the air exactly like a Fly-catcher, catch the insect and often return to the same perch. Sometimes he would light on another tree near the one just left, and at other times he would keep on his course, cross the road and light on one of the trees opposite. In this way he was continually passing to and fro by me over the way.

Occasionally I saw the insect some ten feet from me,

Sitta canadensis.

Whitefield, N.H.

1897. hovering in the air, and it was a pretty sight to watch the
 Aug. 27. Nuthatch launch off from his perch and deftly snatch it up
 without ever a failure. If the insect was below him, he would
 drop upon it on outspread wing, poising like a miniature hawk;
 if above him, he would dart up, and for a second or two remain
 stationary with fluttering wings, like a humming-bird, while
 he siezed his prey. Once he struck out after a large darning-
 needle that looked nearly his own size, but he didn't get
 nearer than an inch or two of it, when he realized the enor-
 mity of the undertaking, and very prudently abandoned the job.

The Nuthatch seemed quite oblivious of my presence, and
 sometimes in his flight for food he passed within three feet
 of me, as he darted about, and then lit on a small branch some
 five feet above the ground and but five or six feet from where
 I was standing. Generally when on the wing he was silent, but
 at times he uttered a very faint note several times repeated.
 On his perch he rarely made a sound, though two or three times
 he gave vent to his characteristic yna, yna, yna.

After alighting on the tree, the Nuthatch first proceeded
 to devour the insect which he held in his bill. He assisted
 the operation by pecking at the bark as if to arrange the po-
 sition of the insect ere he swallowed it. Then he either sat
 erect and motionless for a few seconds, on the lookout for
 more aerial food, or he ran about for a while on the branches

Sitta canadensis.

Whitefield, N.H.

1897. and trunk, up and down, under and above like a fly, inserting
 Aug. 27. his bill into the little crevices as he went, doubtless for a
 dessert to his dinner. I noticed that when he circled a horizontal
 branch or ran along on the under side, and then returned to the upper
 side without pausing, his wings remained closed all the time, but when
 he stopped on the under side and remained for a few seconds in a pendent
 position, then if he started to run up to the upper side of the branch,
 he assisted his ascent by a slight movement of the wings.

After I had watched the Nuthatch's gyrations for over
 half an hour, a ^{Sharp-shinned} Sparrow Hawk flew swiftly across the road close
 by us, and disappeared in the trees. He could not have been more
 than 10 or 15 feet from the busy little bird, but it made no difference,
 the Nuthatch kept on getting his noonday meal as assiduously as ever,
 and when I left him, he was still hard at it.

-----:-----

Walter Deane.

Sitta canadensis.

Concord. Mass.

Abundance.

1899. There was heavy flight of Canada Nuthatches this autumn.
Oct. 12 Just when they reached the Concord region I do not know but
to
Oct. 31. they were abundant there during the whole of my stay. I saw
them in orchards and about houses on several occasions but
oftenest and in the greatest numbers in pitch or white pine
woods never more than three or four together although they
frequently associated with Chickadees, Kinglets and Brown
Creepers. I repeatedly observed them extracting seeds from
hemlock cones and carrying them to the trunks of rough-barked
deciduous trees where they tamped them firmly into cracks or
crevices rarely depositing more than a single seed in any one
place.

Sitta Canadensis

1896 Mass.

November

Concord. Miss Eaton (who lives near the Cemetery) tells me that Red-bellied as well as White-bellied Nuthatches come regularly now to feed on beef suet which she puts up for the winter birds in the trees near her house. None have come to the beef fat which Miss Hayes has put out and which has been liberally & constantly patronized by White-bellied Nuthatches, Chickadees, & Downy Woodpeckers. I have seen no Red-bellied where the Hayes place though the pines on Monument Avenue. They have been very numerous about Concord this autumn but they stick very closely to evergreen woods. Miss Eaton's birds come, no doubt, from Hedges Hollow Cemetery, a favorite resort of theirs.

Eating
beef suet

1900

January 21 Springfield. - Two seen in pines on the sand dunes by Dr. C. W. Townsend.
(A heavy flight passed through E. Mass. last autumn & a good many birds are spending the winter with us)

February 16 Brookline. - While calling on the Misses Kendall this afternoon I saw a pair of Red-bellied Nuthatches alight on and eat freely of a piece of suet which is kept hanging for the birds in a tin on the piazza near the parlor window. They also took a number of small fragments of suet to an elm and tamped them into the crevices of its corrugated bark where, Miss Blanche Kendall told me, the Brown Creeper would be pretty certain to find and devour them afterwards.

Eating suet.

" 20 Cambridge. - Saw one in Observatory grounds feeding on flower buds.

Portland, Conn. "Abundant all winter" - J. A. Sayer.
(Sitter Feb. 26, 1900 & H. A. Purdie)

sitta canadensis

Lancaster ^{Mass.}
May 23-1902

My dear Mr. Brewster

I know that
you will be interested
to know that I found
the nest of a Red-breasted
Nuthatch (Sitta canadensis)
in Lancaster.

My attention was
called to a nice hole
in a birch stump, about
seventeen feet from the
ground. On striking the

tree, the bird flew out
and was shot. On
examining the stump I
saw a good deal of
pitch under the hole
and I remembered what
you^{had} told me, that when
the clutch is completed,
the pitch is put on.

I imagine how I felt
when the nest was
opened to find six young
birds, about two days old.

The nest was fixed
up and I am glad to
say I saw the female
(the male was shot) go into
the hole and feed her young.

Sincerely, Yours

John E. Ray.

Birds of Upper St. John,
Batchelder.

10. *Sitta canadensis* Linn. RED-BELLIED NUTHATCH.—One shot at Fort Fairfield. Both species are said to be common at Houlton.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, April, 1882, p. 109

Birds within Ten Miles of Point
A. Moulton, Ont. Cooper & Merriam

8. *Sitta canadensis*. RED-BELLIED NUTHATCH.—Tolerably common in winter, but not observed in summer.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Oct. 1882, p. 23

Last Dates Migratory Birds observed by
E. D. Wintle, Fall 1885, Montreal, Can.

Aug. 15. Red-bellied Nuthatch,

O. & O. XI, Mar. 1886, p. 44

An Ornithologist's Summer in Labrador
M. Abbott Frazer.

Sitta canadensis, Red-breasted Nuthatch. Saw several broods with their parents at Esquimaux Point the first week of September.

O. & O. XII, Mar. 1887, p. 35

Summer Bds. Restigouche Valley, N. B.
July, '88. J. Brittain and P. Cox. Jr.

Sitta canadensis. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—Quite common, with young just on wing.

Auk, VI, April, 1889, p. 119

Birds of Sudbury, Ont.
A. H. Alberger.

728. Red-bellied Nuthatch. Tolerably common.

O. & O. IV, June, 1890, p. 88

Dwight, Summer Birds of
Prince Edward Island.

Sitta canadensis. RED-BELLIED NUTHATCH.—I had about given up seeing this species at all when I came upon several at Souris, probably a family. They feed usually in the upper boughs of spruces, and seldom run up and down the trunks of trees like their white-breasted brethren. They have a nasal cry of one note, uttered with varying intensity, and never rapidly repeated like the other species. Of course I should not venture such general conclusions as these with regard to this species, nor to others, if they were not based upon further observations made elsewhere.

Auk X, Jan, 1893, p. 14

General Notes.

Notes on Cape Breton Summer Birds.
Francis H. Allen.

Sitta canadensis. One heard at Margaree Forks.

Auk XII. Jan. 1895 p. 90

Some Winter Birds of Nova Scotia. By C. H. Merrell.

29. *Sitta canadensis*. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.— Common all winter. Auk, XVI, July, 1898, p. 253.

Newfoundland Notes. A Trip up the
Humber River, Aug. 10—Sept. 24, 1899.

47. *Sitta canadensis*. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.— One seen August 18.

Louis H. Porter, New York City.

Auk, XVII, Dec., 1900, p. 73.

Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region,
Nipissing District, Ontario.

by Frederick C. Habel. Auk, XXIV, Jan. 1907, p. 52.

70. *Sitta canadensis*. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.— Fairly common.

Birds of Toronto Canada,
by James W. Fleming.

Part II, Land Birds.

Auk, XXIX, Jan. 1907, p. 86.

278. *Sitta canadensis*. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.— Resident between September 2 and May 13, usually leaving about April 5.

Maine (Bangs)

Sitta canadensis 13.

1888

50 to 70 in one flock

Dec. 1

Fully 50 & probably 70 seen in
one flock by Mr. Jos. Goodale.

Maine (Bangs)

Sitta canadensis 14.

1889

Absence in winter

Jan. 1

"We have no Red-bellied Nuthatches this
winter although the woods up river were
fairly alive with them last September"
(Mr. Hardy let. Jan. 1. 1889)

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F.H.C. 15.

12. *Sitta canadensis*, (Red-bellied Nuthatch).
This restless little bird was not often observed. A
few were seen at each season, those being about
the clearings at Kingfield and Stratton. No nests
were found, yet they undoubtedly breed.

O. & O. XI. Aug. 1886, p. 115

Some Observations on a Pair of Brown Creepers (*Certhia familiaris americana*).— On June 11, 1913, while walking through a strip of woods on Cape Elizabeth, Maine, in company with Mr. A. H. Norton of Portland, I found a pair of Brown Creepers among the dead trees along the banks of a brook. Most of these were evergreen trees and a great many of them were dead with pieces of the bark still attached. A careful search failed to reveal any sign of the nest, which I felt sure must be somewhere in the vicinity.

On June 14, I returned to the same place and found the birds again. I watched them and found that they were gathering something from the trunks of the trees. I kept my eyes on one of the birds which had its bill full of something, and saw it disappear off to my left. I changed my position about twenty-five yards and within five minutes had the pleasure of seeing one of the birds disappear in a hole under a large piece of bark on a fir stump.

half a minute,
" " "
" " "

3: 41 " "
3: 50 " " staid half a minute,
3: 51 " "
3: 56 both birds in succession,
3: 59½ one bird
4: 08 " "
4: 12 " "
4: 14 the other bird, both in sight,
4: 17 one bird
4: 18 " " staid half a minute
4: 22 " "
4: 27 " " staid half a minute, followed immediately by the other
bird,
4: 36 one bird with what looked like birch bark or moth wings of some
kind,
4: 38 one bird followed immediately by the other,
4: 41 one bird with moth or flying insect of some kind.

On one trip I thought I saw one of the birds taking the excreta from the nest to a tree about fifty paces away, but up to 4: 41 I believed that the birds were building. After the visit at that time I was confident that they were feeding young and I went over to the nest to investigate. I enlarged the entrance hole a trifle and looking in could see two young. I put one of my fingers into the hole and could hear the young birds climbing up inside the bark. When I looked into the nest again it was apparently empty. I then started to remove the piece of bark to which the nest was attached and all except one of the young birds left the nest and flew away, making flights of about twenty yards.

As soon as the young birds began to leave the nest the parents became very excited and one of them, probably the female, alighted on a tree

My time was limited and I was only able to see that both birds visited the nest and that neither of them went directly to the nesting tree but went first to a hemlock tree which was about six feet away.

On June 17, I again returned, prepared to stay as long as there was sufficient light to see by. My observations began at about 3:15 P. M. and were tabulated as follows:

3:19 both birds came to the nest,
3:20 one bird
3:22 " "
3:23 one bird; both then came to trees within 15 feet of me, one on either side.
3:24½ one bird,
3:26 same bird,
3:35 both birds; one waiting at the entrance till the other left,
3:37½ one bird, staid half a minute,
3:38 " " " " " "
3:39 " " " " " "
3:41 " "
3:50 " " staid half a minute,
3:51 " "
3:56 both birds in succession,
3:59½ one bird
4:08 " "
4:12 " "
4:14 the other bird, both in sight,
4:17 one bird
4:18 " " staid half a minute
4:22 " "
4:27 " " staid half a minute, followed immediately by the other bird,
4:36 one bird with what looked like birch bark or moth wings of some kind,
4:38 one bird followed immediately by the other,
4:41 one bird with moth or flying insect of some kind.

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Sitta canadensis. - Abundant. Profile House N. H. Aug. 1865.
Rye Beach, N. H. 1870.

Sitta canadensis. - Aug. 19-30. - Very abundant in grove of Pinus rigida

Shelburne, N. H.

Sitta canadensis

1884

July 9

Five or six seen, three shot, all young in first plumage. They were scattered about singly in white pine woods and in notes as well as actions were indistinguishable from adult birds. As the month advanced they became more numerous - in fact really abundant. We found them invariably in white pine woods and nearly always associating with Titmice, Nuthatches etc. in "mixed flocks" which often comprised over a hundred members all told. In very high gathering there was exactly here to be

Litta Canadensis, - Abundant. Profile House N. H. Aug. 1865.
Rye Beach, N. H. 1870.

Litta Canadensis. - Aug. 19-30. - very abundant in grove of *Pinus rigida*

from top to a dozen or more
whitish. They were found with
unspined. But unusually light,
forming much of the web of the
bunnet. Like *L. pusilla* when they
greatly resemble in position, however,
in various stages of change, when
the first 3 pale plumage. The adults
are also mostly of yellowish with pale
dors. I think the pupation is in
July 20th. At least on *Rigida*.
very *Psittalia* from a very old hawk on
the 19th and a few days later. Then
were as many there as before.

Winter Birds of Webster, N. H. by Falco.

Red-bellied Nuthatch, (*Sitta canadensis*).

O. & O. X. Jan. 1885. p. 14

Summer Birds of Presidential Range,
White Mts. A. P. Chadbourne

40. *Sitta canadensis*. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—Common at the base of the mountain, but more plenty at a higher altitude, and most abundant in the low spruce and fir forest near the limit of timber. Young birds in first plumage were killed on July 12, opposite the Half-way House. On September 2, 1884, I saw one running over the bare rocks on the summit of Mt. Clay.

Auk, 4. April 1887. p. 107

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N. H. June 11-21
'86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87. W. Faxon

78. *Sitta canadensis*. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—Rare.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 153

Bird Notes, Central N. H. Winter '91-92
J. H. Johnson

Red-breasted Nuthatch, common.

O. & O. Vol. 17, May 1892 p. 72

Denney Point, Webster, N. H.

1894.

Jan. 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Feb. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Mar. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Apr. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
May 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Jun. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Jul. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Aug. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Sep. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Oct. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Nov. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Dec. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Denney Point, Webster, N. H.

1895.

Jan. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Feb. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Mar. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Apr. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
May 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Jun. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Jul. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Aug. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Sep. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Oct. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Nov. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31
Dec. 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

77. *Sitta canadensis*. RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH.—Observed but once—a little group of four in the spruces near the summit.

By ALICE W. BROWN. Vol. XVIII, Oct. 1901, p. 300.

2. *Sitta canadensis*, Nov. 4¹ ^{Canada} E. Mass. 1884.

23

4 *S. canadensis* Nov. 8⁶ E. Mass. 1886.

Great Id. Mass. ~~Dec. 1888~~ ¹⁸⁸⁶ 21³⁰ - 22²⁰ ^(Nov. 21-22). Swarming in yellow pines (*Pinus*),
Sitta canadensis ~ 15² Great Id. Mass. Dec. 1888.

Mass (Winchendon)

247.

1887

June 26²

Sitta canadensis

Mass. (near Cambridge).

257

1887

April 6¹⁸

Sitta canadensis

1888

Oct. 23 (Rhine)

Nov. 2 (Wethers)

*Pitta canadensis**Pitta canadensis*

27.

Wintering in Mass.

Duxbury & Deadham, Mass.
December, 1882

I saw a Red-bellied Nuthatch at
Maynards to-day (Dec. 30) that was killed
this week at Duxbury, by a Mr. Chamberlain.

Spielman's friend Wakefield reports
them as having been abundant in
Deadham for several weeks past. He saw
five, recently, on one tree at the same
time.

Meth. (Concord)

Pitta canadensis

28.

1886

Occurrence in June

June 21

At about 7 A.M. while passing Ball's Hill I heard
the unmistakable whining call of a Red-bellied Nuthatch
and the next moment saw the bird fly from one
pine to the next on the brow of the hill above.
I landed, climbed to the spot, watched, listened,
& searched, but without seeing or hearing the
bird again.

An hour later and more than a mile further
down river, in some heavy pine timber, I heard a
second (possibly the same bird!) many times in
succession and once saw it low down and

Mass. (near Cambridge)

Sitta canadensis

25

1886

Abundant in early Nov.

Nov. 8

Six shot in pine (*P. rigida*) woods in Belmont in company with Chickadees & Kinglets, four in one flock, two in another; three ♂'s, three ♀'s, all in full ant. dress. These Nuthatches appear to have spread over an unusually wide range of country this season. They appeared in Concord in June, and were abundant there through July, Aug. & Sept. In Oct. I found them in fairly large numbers at W. Newbury. Beckham in Oct. Auk records a specimen shot in summer in Kentucky and Smyth in Nov. Randall Notes one taken in the lowlands of South Carolina. Mr. S. Perry of Worcester

Mass. (*Hyannis*)

Sitta canadensis

30

1886

Nov. 21-23

More abundant than I have ever seen it anywhere hitherto. On the 21 I noted at least thirty during a walk of a mile through the deer preserve on Great Island. All were in pines (*P. rigida*) in flocks of Titmice, Kinglets etc.

Mass. (Hyannis)

Sitta canadensis 31.

1888

2^d December.

Dec. 15th

Two or three mobbing a Saw-whet Owl in the pine (*P. rigida*) woods on the east side of the deer forest. They uttered an incessant, rapid, excited, and unusually abbreviated and faint whining cry as they hopped about the solemn little Owl within a foot or two.

We have had a limited flight of these *Meathatchers* about Cambridge this autumn. Goodale reports seeing at least 50 & he thinks fully 75 in one flock at Isles, Maine, Dec. 1. They were in spruce woods with Creepers & Titmice.

Mass. (Wellesley)

Sitta canadensis 32.

1888

NOV 2

Saw at least six in a pair of heavy white pine timber. They were in company with Titmice, Creepers etc. I also saw a single bird at Point of Pines, River Beach, Oct. 23.

Mass. (Cambridge)

Sitta canadensis 33.

1888

Wintering

Dec. 25

A. P. Chadbourne saw six in the hemlock grove behind the Fresh Pond hotel. They are reported from other places in E. Mass. also. I saw three on Great Id. Mass. Dec. 15.

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

June 25-30, 1889.

Sitta canadensis

34.

Rocky, Mt. Watatic, Ashburnham, Worcester Co. - One found in spruce woods west side Watatic, two June 28 in spruce & larch swamp near base of Mt. W. (in Ashburnham), one June 30 in spruce & hemlock woods about 1/2 mile S.W. of Watatic (in Ashburnham), one June 29 in white pine near village of Ashby. All adult birds, seen on several days, returning at frequent intervals.

Mass.

Sitta canadensis 30

Arlington

a ♂ seen at Turkey Hill by Faxon on May 7
when the bird was going in & out a small hole in
a dead branch of a tulip tree (height about 20 ft.)
On June 23 Faxon visited the place & found a
♂, apparently the same bird, in the same place
a grove of white pines bordering a swamp.

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season
nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

[76. *Sitta canadensis*.* Not common.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888, p. 389

Notes on Birds of Winchendon, Mass.
William Brewster.

Sitta canadensis.—Besides the Winter Wren and Olive-sided Flycatcher
the spruce swamp just mentioned furnished another species not found
elsewhere, viz., the Red-bellied Nuthatch. We saw only a single pair
which, attracted by the outcry made by the Canadian Warblers as we were
taking their nest, came into the trees overhead, uttering their peculiar nasal
whining. Doubtless they were breeding somewhere in the neighborhood,
although I have no positive proof of this.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888, p. 392 - 393.

1889 *Sitta canadensis*.

Wellesley, Mass.

March 3. 15 seen 7 sent.

Fall Migration, Bristol County, Mass. 37
1885. Charles H. Andros.

Oct. 10; heard the "ank, ank" of the Red-bellied Nuthatch this morning.

O. & O. XI. Jan. 1886, p. 2

Birds of Bristol County, Mass. 403
F. W. Andros.

Sitta canadensis Linn., Red-breasted Nuthatch. Migrant, rare.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 141

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire Co. Mass. June 28-July 16. W. Faxon

71. *Sitta canadensis*. RED-BELLIED NUTHATCH.—Common on the mountains. Observed from about 2100 feet to the summit of Graylock, in fact wherever there were old black spruces. Like its White-bellied cousin this bird at times repeats its nasal *hank* for a protracted period and with rapidity, suggesting to my ears the call of a pygmy Flicker. This seems to be its song proper.

Ank, VI. April, 1889. p. 105

Frank A. Brown, of Beverly, Mass., reports finding a set of six eggs of the Red-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) on May 23, 1890. The nest was composed of grape-vine bark, dried grass, etc., in a hole in a maple stub, ten feet from the ground. The hole was about eight inches deep. The eggs measured .62 x .49; .63 x .49; .61 x .49; .62 x .52; .62 x .49; .61 x .50.

O. & O. XV. June, 1890, p. 90

(*Sitta nota*)

June 8th, a Red-headed Nuthatch was observed at Hyde Park, Mass.

O. & O. 16. July, 1890, p. 112

Ank, XIII, Oct., 1896, p. 346.

Sitta canadensis.

Plymouth Co., Mass., in summer.

A. P. Chadbourne.

Sitta canadensis
nesting at Concord, Mass.

MISS WHITE'S HOME SCHOOL.
CONCORD, MASS.

1900

My dear Professor Brewster,

I made a
discovery this morning
that may interest
you.

A red-breasted
nuthatch nesting,
evidently, at the
Bedford Road entrance
to Sleepy Hollow
Cemetery. He was
carrying worms, which
he got from the

Probable Breeding of the Red-bellied Nuthatch near Boston. — I am requested by Mr. F. H. Mosher to report that he saw in June, 1899, in Medford, Mass., a Red-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) busily engaged in catching and carrying away larvæ, presumably to its young. Mr. Mosher failed, however, to locate the supposed nest, for the Nuthatch, as he was tracing it through the woods, was set upon by a Wood Pewee and driven out of sight.

On other occasions during the summer of 1899, this species was observed in this locality by Mr. Mosher. — J. A. FARLEY, Malden, Mass.

AME. NAT. April, 1901, p. 198.

My sister and I enjoyed our
visit to your camp and
woods more than I can tell
you. Your hospitality
involved so much that some
compunction is mingled with
the delight which the afternoon
experience gave us.

Please accept our sincere
thanks for your kindness
in planning such an afternoon.

Yours very truly,

Mary Abby White.

May the thirtieth.

Probable Breeding of the Red-bellied Nuthatch near Boston. — I am requested by Mr. F. H. Mosher to report that he saw in June, 1899, in Medford, Mass., a Red-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) busily engaged in catching and carrying away larvæ, presumably to its young. Mr. Mosher failed, however, to locate the supposed nest, for the Nuthatch, as he was tracing it through the woods, was set upon by a Wood Pewee and driven out of sight.

On other occasions during the summer of 1899, this species was observed in this locality by Mr. Mosher. — J. A. FARLEY, Malden, Mass.

ARK, XVIII April, 1901, 1908.

tree trunks by the side
walk, to his hole in
the old slender trunk
of a white birch,
on the left of the
gateway.

The entrance
to which I refer is
the one into Sleepy
Hollow proper, with
the iron gate.

The hole was
too high for me to
investigate, but I
saw the nuthatch
carry a worm to it
three times.

Probable Breeding of the Red-bellied Nuthatch near Boston. — I am requested by Mr. F. H. Mosher to report that he saw in June, 1899, in Medford, Mass., a Red-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) busily engaged in catching and carrying away larvæ, presumably to its young. Mr. Mosher failed, however, to locate the supposed nest, for the Nuthatch, as he was tracing it through the woods, was set upon by a Wood Pewee and driven out of sight.

On other occasions during the summer of 1899, this species was observed in this locality by Mr. Mosher. — J. A. FARLEY, Malden, Mass.

Auk, XVIII, April, 1901, p. 148.

7/10 under
Sitta carolinensis

Sitta carolinensis
Manchester by the sea
- in May - May 8.

Mr. Brewster

Dear Sir:—

Can you solve a
bird puzzle for us?

We have seen three times
a day in an oak tree
near our window a
bird whom we can not
find in Chapman's
Handbook.

He looks like a warbler
has a distinct dark red
crown, a black line from
the eyes a pale grey
breast & throat. Though
we saw him plainly, it
was always far on
so we know nothing
about tail or wing bars
though I think the back
was streaked grayish.

We find on our return to
the country a pair of
red breasted nuthatches
who have been fed here
during the winter. Still
hungry, and we have
seen the male feeding
the female. Do they ever
nest here?

Truly yours
Parkus Gray Smith

Sitta canadensis ^{Arlington Mass.}
probably breeding. Barnstable Feb 20/03

Dear Mr. Deane,

The Sitta canadensis was seen
May 9, 1889, going in and out of hole, Arlington.
I went to Berkshire on the 10th,
staying till the 29th. On June 23
I saw him again at the same
place. June 25th I went off again
to Watatic + Berkshire, ^{returning July 11th.} This time
bird was not followed up.

Parus ciris, ♂ in brilliant plumage,
Arlington, July 22, 1894 (on edge of Murtle P.d.).

Minimus polyglottos, Barnstable, Oct. 26,
Oct. 27, + Nov. 17, 1898. He was seen by others
on other days.
Simmons

Canton, Mass.

Sitta canadensis. From 1900 to 1904 I spent considerable time in a part of Canton that seemed very favorable for birds of the Canadian Fauna. Here was a 50-acre tract of large white pines with adjoining swamp of white cedar and red maple, and considerable large deciduous growth. Numerous plants and shrubs of a northern character grew throughout the area, and I found breeding there such birds as the Barred Owl, Broad-winged Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, Solitary Vireo, Canadian Warbler, and Brown Creeper.

April 29, 1900, I first saw the Red-breasted Nuthatch here and it seems quite probable that they were breeding; however on May 18, 1902, Mr. Owen Durfee and I located a pair of the birds on the edge of the pines in a mixed growth of oak and chestnut, about 50 yards from the maple swamp. The female soon went to the nest near the top of a small dead black oak stub 12 feet high. After spending some time watching and photographing the birds I collected the stump with a set of six fresh eggs. At the entrance hole was the characteristic daub of pitch.— F. B. McKECHNIE, *Ponkapog, Mass.*

Correspondence.

Editor O. & O.:

While collecting birds the other day, Aug. 28th, I shot three Red-bellied Nuthatches. They were feeding in white birch trees much in the same manner as Warblers would.

W. H. Lucas, Bullyport, Conn.

P. & O. XIV. Oct. 1889. p. 160.

General Notes

Sitta canadensis. — An unusual flight of the Red-breasted Nuthatch was observed here from Sept. 27 to Oct. 23, 1892, the height of the migration being about the middle of October. They were quite common in other sections of the State during the same period. — JNO. H. SAGE, Portland, Conn.

Aug. 11, April, 1893. p. 207.

In the Eastern (Adirondack) region
Sitta canadensis, is found breeding.

Bull. N.O.C. 3, April, 1878, p. 53

Birds at Fort Hamilton, L.I. Berne.

The fall of 1878 was also remarkable for the unusual number of Red-bellied Nuthatches (*Sitta canadensis*),

The little fellows were everywhere, — about the trees, on the fences, climbing the sides of the houses, and running about the shutters. They remained with us through the winter and first half of the spring. I may here remark that I shot a Red-bellied Nuthatch at Fort Hamilton, July 20, 1877, in full breeding plumage (see Brewster's "First Plumages," this Bulletin, Vol. III, pp. 20, 21). What this bird was doing on Long Island in mid-summer I can not imagine, as its southern breeding limit is far north of here. During the past autumn and winter I have seen not one Red-bellied Nuthatch, or Chickadee, and only two or three White-bellied Nuthatches.

What occasions these erratic movements of the birds? The supposition that a variation in the supply of food is the cause seems hardly probable, for it appears incredible that the food of the Chickadee and Nuthatches should have been so scant last fall as to cause these birds to avoid this locality in their migrations. I say it is incredible because their kind of food is shared by many other birds that were abundant. As for the character of the season influencing their travels, unless it can be shown that they wintered north of Long Island in unusual numbers, I do not think it can be taken as a reasonable explanation, for the birds mentioned above are regular migrants whatever the character of the seasons may be. Bull. N.O.C. 6, Jan., 1881, p. 12.

Birds of the Adirondack Region.

O. H. Merriam.

15. *Sitta canadensis*, Linn. RED-BELLIED NUTHATCH. — Breeds abundantly.

Bull. N.O.C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 226

May 17. Shot a Red-bellied Nuthatch, the first one seen in Spring during six years collecting.

H. H. H. Mellow Island, N. Y.

O. & O. IX, Feb. 1884, p. 24

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds with
Northern Adirondacks [Linton], New York [1901].

April 30 & May 5.
Red-breasted Nuthatch. Not common.

H. A. Sterling, Brooklyn, Pa.

Auk, N. E. July, 1888, p. 298.

Onsida County, New York,
William L. Ralph & Egbert Bagg

Sitta canadensis. — A common migrant; summer resident in the northern part of the County. Breeds. A second nest, taken May 30, 1887, in Wilmurt, Herkimer Co., contained six fresh eggs.

Auk, VII, July, 1890, p. 232.

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

Sitta canadensis. RED-BELLIED NUTHATCH.

The drawling call-notes of this species are the only sounds I have heard from it. They are frequently uttered while the bird is with us. **Auk, I, April, 1884. p. 136.**

New York (Oneida Co.)

Sitta canadensis

1886

Nest 5 eggs with green about hole.

See Ralph & Bass, Birds Oneida Co., p. 145

Summer Birds of Buncombe County,

- N. Carolina. John S. Cairns.

Sitta canadensis. Red-breasted Nut-hatch
Resident; common on Black Mountains. Have
found but two nests of this bird, one in 1886 on
the 10th of May and the other on the 15th of
May, 1885. The first was in a dead stub 20
feet up, and the other was in a stump six feet
up. Each nest contained four fresh eggs.
They were much more heavily marked than
those of the White-breasted Nuthatch.

O. & O. XIV, Feb. 1889 p. 22

Nest of the Red-bellied Nuthatch.

BY WILLIAM L. KELLS, ONTARIO, CANADA.

As many persons have requested me to try and obtain for them the eggs of this species, (*Sitta canadensis*), and as it seems that but little is known of its nidification, or indeed of its general habits, I think that perhaps a short sketch of what I know on the subject may be interesting to many. In Peel, the home of my early days, where I first began to study, from the unwritten book of nature, the pleasing science of ornithology, this bird was unknown to me; though the White-bellied species, (*Sitta carolinensis*), was common, and often came under my observation. Especially was this the case at the time of sugar-making, and at these times I had often noticed the latter variety nesting. The nature of the woods on the Peel lands was no doubt the cause of the absence of this species from that section, hard wood being the principal timber here, while as I now know the soft evergreen woods are the peculiar haunts and homes of the Red-bellied Nuthatch. When, however, I came to reside in North Wallace, I was struck with the peculiar appearance of the Nuthatches that I saw in the evergreen woods there when compared with those I had previously seen, and still occasionally observed among the hard wood timber, but the idea that they might be a different species did not yet occur to me, and not until some years afterwards, when I obtained Ross' *Birds of Canada* did I become aware that there existed two species of these birds in the woods of Canada; for my previous text book, Cuvier's *Animal Kingdom*, gave me no information on the subject.

Having, however, obtained this information, I identified the species at once, and knew much of their distinguishing habits and peculiar haunts. But previous to this, in the month of June of my second year's residence in Wallace, as I was cutting down some timber on the margin of a beaver-meadow that intersected my farm, and where the bush was composed chiefly of linden, black-ash and several kinds of evergreens, my attention was attracted by the action of a pair of Nuthatches whose color and notes I observed differed from those of another pair whose nesting place I had disturbed in the sugar-bush on the other side of the meadow earlier in the season. These birds were continually going in and coming out of a Woodpecker-like hole in the top of an old linden stub about twenty feet from the ground, evidently feeding young, and during the day the branches of one of the trees that I was felling struck this and brought it to the earth. Upon examination

I found, to my regret, and the great distress of the parent birds, that the cavity in the old tree had contained the nest and three young of the Nuthatch, which were about a week old, but fatally injured by the fall of their birthplace. The cavity in which this nest was placed was like that of a small Woodpecker's, and the nest itself, (like that of a Blackbird) was composed chiefly of fine strips of fibrous bark. I have long felt certain that it belonged to and was a type of the nest of the Red-bellied Nuthatch. Of late years I have rambled through wet log strewn, brush-entangled, swampy woods where these birds make their homes, but no sight of their nesting places has since rewarded my toil, though they are quite common here in winter, and often in mid-summer their pleasant notes fall on the listening ear, from the balsams, or high up among the pine tree tops. Mr. Allen, a gentleman of Toronto, writing in *The Ontario Farmer* in 1869, on the subject of ornithology, remarked regarding this species: "The nest of this Nuthatch is generally made at the bottom of (a cavity in) some dead stump at no great height from the ground. The eggs, four in number, are small, white, with a deep blush, and sprinkled with reddish dots." It seems, however, that the general nesting habits of this species are as yet but little known, and much interest and curiosity must exist in the minds of ornithologists until more is understood about them.

O. & O. XI. Jun. 1886, p. 86.

NESTING HABITS OF THE RED-BELLIED NUTHATCH.—Having been observing the nesting habits of the Red-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*), I will give the readers of the Bulletin the results of my observations. June 2, I found a nest on Little Deer Isle, Penobscot Bay. It was in a white-birch stub some ten feet from the ground; the entrance was one and one half inches wide by one and one fourth deep. The hole ran slanting for three inches, and then straight down for four inches more. It contained six eggs, which were white, with small specks of reddish-brown on the small end, and heavily spotted with the same on the larger end, a great deal more brown than the eggs of the White-bellied Nuthatch. Incubation had not commenced. For two inches below the centre of the hole, and for half an inch on either side, the birch bark was coated with fir balsam. June 20, I found another in Holden, Me., which the young had just left. It was in a poplar stub some twelve feet from the ground. Hole one and one half inches by one inch, slanting down four inches, and then four inches straight down. This hole had fir balsam one fourth of an inch thick for two inches below the hole, and then thinner, and running down in large drops for twenty-one inches below the hole. The pitch extended an inch on either side, and more than three inches above the hole, in all more than could be heaped upon a large tablespoon. It was stuck full of the red breast-feathers of the bird, but there were no signs of any insects having been fastened by it. This nest had been occupied two years. Near both the nests were other holes not so deep, probably used for one of the birds to occupy while the other is sitting, as is the case with most Woodpeckers. Both nests were composed of fine short grasses and roots. I notice that in making the hole the bird makes a circle of holes round a piece about as large as a ten-cent-piece, and then takes out the piece of bark entire. I have one nest which has near it a piece circled in this manner, but not removed. My friend, Mr. Harry Merrill of Bangor, found a nest last year surrounded by pitch just as in those found by me. So that it seems certain that in most cases they do this, though for what purpose I am as yet unable to determine. The pitch certainly was placed there by the birds, as neither birch nor poplar contains pitch, and there were no overhanging trees from which a drop could come. I think it would take the bird several days of steady work to obtain what was around the nest in the poplar. I think that more nests would be found if people did not mistake them for holes of the Downy Woodpecker, which are of the same size, though rounder. Audubon speaks of their being placed four feet from the ground; but while this is sometimes the case, they are oftener ten to fifteen feet from the ground. It is easy to tell even an old nest from that of either a Downy Woodpecker or Black-capped Titmouse, as the Woodpecker lays directly upon fine chips, without any nest, and the Titmouse makes a nice nest of fur and feathers, and neither place any pitch round the holes, while the Nuthatch makes its nest of short fine grass and protects with pitch outside the hole.—MANLY HARDY, Brewer, Me.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, Oct., 1878, p. 196.

Maine

Sitta canadensis

Nests found by M. Hardy.

*For interesting data regarding
the pitch plastering habit see
letter of M. Hardy, Me. 24, 1888.*

about twenty feet from the ground. I supposed of course that it was feeding, but noticed that it kept continually at work at one place; and also seemed very persistent in its work and made much more noise than any which I had watched feeding. As long as I remained quiet the bird continued to work; but when I moved about close to the tree it flew to a neighboring tree. Before I had moved away ten feet, however, it was at work again.

On the 8th of March the bird was still at work, and I noticed that the hole, which it had begun, was almost a perfect circle. I then made up my mind that this was to be a nest. On this day I also found another bird at work on a similar tree about thirty feet from where the first one was laboring, and afterward found several others, examining and testing the quality of different trees; but as only two turned out fruitful my notes will be confined to the description of those. On the afternoon of the same day I was disgusted to see a crow fly down and seize the bird while at work on the nest found the day before. I then devoted my attention to the one found in the morning, which turned out better. The female seemed to start the work, but after the hole was well started the male did his share. They kept constantly busy as long as everything was quiet, but if an intruder made much noise in approaching they would stop work at once. After they got well inside, so that they could detach comparatively large chips, they would carry them some twenty or more feet from the nest before depositing them. They always took pains to scatter them as much as possible. The lining of the cavity was begun on the 25th of the month, and I noticed that the male had nothing to do with this. If he brought any material the female always relieved him of it at the entrance to the nest and carried it inside herself.

On May 2d I thought from appearances that the female was setting, as the male was feeding her, while she remained in the nest. I do not know whether the male took his turn in setting or not. The next morning, as certain reasons prevented me from taking the nest, and fearing that the eggs would become incubated, I struck the base of the tree and drove the bird from it. This was repeated three times that day, and after that neither bird was seen again. A section of the trunk was cut out on the 6th of the month and lowered to the ground. I proceeded to cut away one side in order to get at the interior.

Nesting of the Red-breasted Nuthatch in Orono, Maine.

Having seen very few notes on the nesting of this species (*Sitta canadensis*) I thought my observations for the spring of 1889 might be of some interest. I have found this bird quite abundant in the woods for several winters past; but, as I have seen only one or two individuals in the late spring or summer—before this year—I had no idea that it nested here. The reason of my seeing more this spring may be accounted for by my having to go to the woods daily.

On the 7th of April, while in a wood-lot, my attention was attracted by a tapping sound which I thought was occasioned by some Woodpecker. I followed the sound, and soon saw a Red-breasted Nuthatch at work on the trunk of a dead tree, without branches,

Mar. 1890.]

AND OOLOGIST.

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Upon looking into the nest what was my surprise to find it almost empty. I thought I would take out the lining for examination; and, proceeding to do so was again surprised to hear egg shells breaking. I then made a close examination and found three eggs and the remnants of two others. The eggs were completely buried in the nest, there being a layer composed of strips of bark as much as a quarter of an inch thick over the eggs.

The second productive nest was found nearly completed the 3d of May, and in a situation similar to the first. On the 10th I noticed the birds lining the nest. On the afternoon of the 13th, not having seen the birds since the 11th, and fearing that they had deserted the nest, I climbed a tree close by and cut open the nest. I found two fresh eggs, and just as I was about to take them the female bird appeared. I decided to leave the eggs to see if the birds would not return and complete the set. The next morning I was much pleased to find the bird back on the nest—I could easily see her from the ground since cutting into the cavity. The bird was setting on the 16th, so the morning of the 17th found me on hand with the necessary appliances for getting the nest. Upon climbing up I found that it contained only three eggs, but it was a complete set as incubation had commenced.

The trunks in both cases were so thoroughly decayed that they furnished no support, so the nests were secured by fastening ropes about the trunk just above the nest, attaching them to a neighboring tree. This tree was then ascended, the cavity filled with cotton to prevent damage to the eggs, and then a section containing the nest was sawed off and lowered to the ground.

The principal points of interest in regard to the nests and eggs are as follows:

The entrance to the first nest was some twenty-five or thirty feet from the ground, and within three feet of the top of the trunk. The diameter of the entrance is one and three-eighths inches; horizontal depth, three inches; vertical depth, six inches. After the entrance was completed the inside was made much larger, like the nests of other birds which build in similar situations, the diameter of the interior of the nest being two and three quarters inches. The lining, which consists almost entirely of fine strips of bark, is about an inch in depth. It also extends upward around the walls of the nest for another inch, making a very neat and warm abode.

The three eggs saved are of a roseate-white color, and covered quite thickly with reddish-brown spots, varying in size from those almost imperceptible to those larger than a pin head. These spots are thickest at the larger end of the egg. They measure: .56 x .47, .55 x .47, .56 x .47.

Nest No. 2 was situated about thirty-five feet from the ground. Its dimensions correspond very nearly to those of the former.

The complete set of three eggs shows great variation in markings. The ground color and the color of the spots are the same as in the first set, but the spots in this set are very fine, and in eggs No. 1 and No. 2 are very abundant, almost running together at the larger end, forming a dense ring. Egg No. 3, which was laid after the nest was torn open, when at a distance of two feet from the observer, seems to be pure white; but upon closer examination it is found to be sprinkled with exceedingly fine and pale spots. The larger end is quite thoroughly covered. These eggs show a little more variation in dimensions than those of the first set, being respectively: .60 x .46, .59 x .46, .62 x .47. R. H. Fernald, Orono, Maine.

O. & O. XV, Mar. 1890 p 40-41

A Few Nests Collected at Cornwall, Vt. Spring-1889. C. H. Parkhill.

Red-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*). Collected May 30th. The nest, which was in a dead maple stub, ten feet from the ground, was placed in a deserted Woodpecker's hole in which, in 1888, was a nest of the Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens*). It was composed of fine strips of bark and contained seven eggs, incubation well begun. The old bird was easily started from the nest by rapping on the tree, but returned in every instance within ten minutes, hopping from branch to branch, and then darting down and poising for an instant in front of the hole, went inside.

O. & O. XIV, Oct. 1889 p 150

General Notes.

Nesting of the Red-bellied Nuthatch in Templeton, Mass.—On the morning of June 10, 1894, while walking through the woods with my nephew on the banks of Otter River in Templeton, and having for an object anything new or interesting, with an especial 'leaning' towards birds' nests, we came to an old stub about fifteen feet high. Following my usual custom in such cases I pounded vigorously to see if any one was "at home." I was surprised to see a Red-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) fly from the stub and perch on a hemlock limb within six feet of my face and remain there for some minutes, giving me abundant opportunity to positively identify her.

I immediately climbed the stub and found a hole which, had I been as familiar with the breeding habits of the Nuthatch as I have since become, I would have recognized at once as belonging to this species. The lower half of the circumference of the hole was thickly smeared with pitch, which seemed such a strange circumstance that I tore that portion of the wood away whole and passed it carefully down to my nephew and we brought it home. I thought at first that the pitch must have dripped from some wounded limb overhead but there was none there, and the stub was perfectly dry and very much decayed; therefore it must have been brought there by the bird for some purpose doubtless well understood by her, but, so far as I can learn, to no one else.

The hole was about 12 feet from the ground, on the side towards the river (north), and directly over the water where the river widens out into a shallow, weedy lake of perhaps twenty acres in extent. It was about 1½ inches in diameter and 6 inches deep, running down just inside the hard shell of the stub. The nest was simply a handful of what appears to be fine shreds of inner bark of the dead branch of some tree, and fine bark from weeds. There was no attempt at weaving, but the depression was apparently shaped by the body of the bird. It was so loosely constructed that I was obliged to carry it home carefully in my hand for fear it would come to pieces. The nest contained three perfectly fresh eggs, agreeing with the description given by various authors of those of this Nuthatch; also *two young birds* apparently two days old and larger than young of the Red-bellied Nuthatch could possibly be at that age. What could the youngsters be? Surely not Nuthatches, and it did not seem possible that a Cowbird could gain access to the nest, even if she were disposed to try. The place and situation of the hole is just where we would expect to find the White-bellied Swallow breeding, and this led me to think that in some way the claims to the hole were somewhat mixed between these two birds.

I immediately wrote to Mr. William Brewster, and at his request sent him one of the young birds, which I had preserved in spirit, for examination. Mr. Brewster writes: "Your youngster is positively not a Cowbird. It differs from my specimen of the latter (two days old) in having a much wider head and gape, a more depressed bill, shorter tibiae, and in many other essential respects. I have not been able to get at any young Swallows, but your bird looks to me like a young White-bellied Swallow, and I am very sure that is what it will turn out to be."

At Mr. Brewster's suggestion I sent it to Mr. Frederic A. Lucas, who also kindly interested himself in the case, but failing to get a young Swallow for comparison, owing to the lateness of the season when the bird was sent to him, he was unable to positively identify it but expressed himself as very confident that it is a White-bellied Swallow.

It would be interesting to know the exact relations between these two birds. The logical conclusion would seem to be that the Swallow was the first occupant and had succeeded in laying two eggs when she was routed or crowded out by the Nuthatch, who retained possession and unintentionally, perhaps, hatched the eggs of the Swallow while laying her own eggs, and the youngsters, either with or without the aid of their foster-mother, worked their way up through the loose material of the nest. Yet one is left to wonder which parent fed them, or if they were fed at all.—CHARLES E. INGALLS, *East Templeton, Mass.*

East Templeton, Mass., June 13th 1894
Mr William Brewster,
Cambridge, Mass.,
Dear Sir,

Thinking that
you may be interested in a recent find of mine
and give me your valued opinion regarding it
as well I take the liberty of writing to you

On the 10th inst I found the nest of a Red bellied
Nuthatch in Templeton about 10 feet from the ground
in an old dead stub on the bank of Otter river.

The entrance was on the north side directly over
the water and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, the hori-
zontal diameter being slightly less than the vertical one
The nest composed of ~~fine~~ shreds of ~~what~~ what appears
to be the inner bark of some tree, stripped off of dead
and dry branches together with the braided fiber
of weeds, loosely put together with ^{no} apparent attempt
at weaving and about $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches deep was situated
about 6 inches below the entrance and about 1 in.
from the outside of the shell of the stub which

was about 15 in. in diameter. The lower part of the entrance and for an inch or two down the outside was thickly smeared with pitch which must have been brought there as the stub was perfectly dead and dry and there were no pines or other pitch bearing trees within some rods. I find on looking up references that this is a common characteristic of this species. It seemed so curious to me that I carefully preserved the splinters which I was obliged to tear off in order to get at the nest.

The nest contained three (3) perfectly fresh eggs and two young birds apparently about three days old. They were entirely naked except a very little down on the back and head and were too large for Nuthatches. It does not seem possible that the Cowbird could or would get through the entrance to this nest and lay eggs yet what other bird would do it? Can it be possible that the White bellied Swallow had used the nest before the Nuthatch and been driven out? I thought of that explanation but have no reason for it except the situation being such as Swallows would be likely to choose.

There can be no question regarding the proprietorship
of the nest and eggs as I saw the bird come out in
answer to my pounding and alight on a hemlock
limb within 6 feet of my face where she sat for two
three minutes where I could see her distinctly and
the egg answer the description of the eggs of this species
Can you give any solution to the "commundrum"?
I preserved the young birds in spirit and can send
them to you for examination if you consider it of
sufficient importance to be worth the while. I have
no doubt you would be able to determine the
species to which they belong by examination, which I
am unable to do.

Hoping that I shall cause you no annoyance
with my story of what may in the light of your
superior knowledge of the subject be of little moment
I remain

Very respectfully yours
H. E. Inghalls

Nesting of the Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Of all the birds that enliven the woods, there is probably no family, with the exception of the Warblers, more interesting to me than the Nuthatches. Although possessing neither the beautiful songs nor brilliant plumages of many of our woodland birds, they yet make up the deficiency in this respect by their great industry and evident cheerfulness under all conditions.

The species are few in number, yet the family is so widely distributed that there is probably hardly a locality that cannot count at least one species among its fauna.

It was my good fortune to spend a part of the summer of 1890 in the town of Ossipee, beautifully situated among the hills of east central New Hampshire, a few miles east of the far-famed Winnepesaukee, so aptly named by the Indians "The Smile of the Great Spirit." There, in the forests of pine, spruce, and hemlock, the Red-breasted or Canada Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*) is a resident and a common breeder, and a good opportunity was afforded me to observe its nesting habits.

Five nests were found in situations ranging from ten to thirty-three feet from the ground. The first evidences of their breeding were noticed late in April, when I discovered a pair of birds engaged in excavating a nest. This was at the greatest elevation of any found, and was situated near the top of a dead basswood stub, fortunately accessible by means of several smaller adjacent trees. The entrance was circular and none too large to admit the birds. The pair worked alternately, as is usually the case with birds that excavate a nest. When one had been working ten or fifteen minutes it would appear at the entrance and utter its notes, like the syllables *cheaap, cheaap, cheaap*, when immediately its mate would appear and take its turn at the work.

I watched them from time to time, and on

the 17th of May took the nest, containing seven fresh eggs. The cavity was about twelve inches deep and was excavated with considerable skill.

Other nests containing eggs were found on the 22d, 28th, and 31st of May. They were all similar in construction to the first found, being rather slightly made of the fine inner bark of some tree, probably the basswood. In some of the nests a few feathers were intermixed with the other material. The eggs, which ranged from five to seven in number, were similar in size and color to those of the Black-capped Chickadees, but were more pointed than is usually the case with the eggs of that bird.

In this connection it may be well to mention the discovery of a nest of these species in eastern Massachusetts. It was found on the 8th of June, 1887, near my home in Wilmington. It was in a pine stub near a dwelling; was composed of cottony substances evidently picked up near the house, and contained at this date young about half-grown. The birds had been very abundant during the preceding winter, and many had lingered until late in April, but these were the only birds that I observed during the summer.

Edward A. Preble.

Dep't Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

... the four wings. Some are small—the downy woodpecker's little domicile; and others, more capacious, belonged to the hairy; this great one which seems like a bird's boarding house, was the home of the golden-wing; and here on the outside the log cock has left his blaze. Sometimes one finds in these dead trees the remains of a nest more interesting than any woodpecker's—that of the red-bellied nuthatch, perhaps the most abundant of our woods' birds. The woods resound with their harsh, metallic, drawing *tee-eeet, tee-eeet*, and they may be seen everywhere industriously running up and down the tree trunks, too busy to turn about, or else because nature shaped both ends alike, as indifferent to "end-for-ending" as a steam ferryboat. Their nest is a deep hole excavated by themselves, externally so much like a chickadee's or a downy woodpecker's that it might be passed unnoticed but for one peculiarity, the two nests which I have seen were both distinguishable and even noticeable on account of a considerable quantity of pitch which was smeared about the opening both above and below*. As one was in a white birch and the other in a poplar—trees which yield no gum nor resinous exudations—the busy little home makers must have made many a journey back and forth before they collected all the pitch which ornamented their lintel and doorposts, for it ran down like the ointment upon Aaron's beard.

This dry poplar is a very light wood, lighter than dry cedar even, so that it is astonishing to see how large a piece a man can shoulder and carry into camp. Having arrived there, each must construct his fire after his own fancy; it is a craft in which no man ever learns anything or will consent to be taught of his neighbor. Ancient as the art is, going back to the shadowy, prehistoric ages when man was separated from the brutes and a brand given him as the sign of his superiority, it is as primitive as at first; a naked savage knows more about making a fire than the inhabitant of St. James', and the one who could not live on raw meat by a grim turn of fate is the one who would not know how to cook it. But every one has his own theories of fire architecture; and you may name a man from the fire he builds, just as from the style of the nest you can determine the kind of bird that made it. One lays all his sticks across both andirons, and another will place a certain number with one end only resting on the dogs—each with convincing arguments in favor of the reasonableness of his own method; and I knew a man once, of kingly intellect, with a firm grasp on half the sciences and the power to make all the metals obey him, who to the day of his death placed his kind-

*One of these nests was empty, the other contained five eggs. They were described in the *Auk* at the time of their discovery, and are now in the collection of Mr. William Brewster, of Cambridge, Mass. The only other instance I have seen of a bird pitching its nest was a redstart, which built a wonderful little nest, but was too vain to hide it, so that the boys tore it down. But the note properly belongs to Miss Florence A. Merriam, and I believe, is mentioned in her delightful little volume "Birds With an Opera Glass."

Forest + Stream

Vol XXIV - No 3. p. 42.

July 4. 1880. Fannie P. Hardy.

Harvard -

Feeding Habits of *Sitta canadensis*.—On the 28th of October last in the Northern Adirondacks I noticed that the Red-bellied Nuthatches seemed to be feeding exclusively on the seeds of the black spruce. After that I watched them for a number of days, and although they were abundant, I did not see them feeding on anything else. Alighting on a bunch of cones at the extremity of a bough, the Nuthatch would insert its bill between the scales of a cone and draw out a seed. Then flying to a horizontal bough near by it would detach the wing which adheres to each seed, letting it fall to the ground, swallow the seed, and fly back for another. Frequently a good many trips would be made between the same bunch of cones and the same bough where the wing was separated from the seed.

The Red-bellied Nuthatches were very abundant—much more so than the White-bellied—and it was an interesting sight to watch them feeding in this way. One specimen, killed while feeding, contained no food but the seeds of the spruce. I did not observe the White-bellied Nuthatch make use of this supply of food.—C. K. AVERILL, JR., Bridgeport, Conn.

Auk, V. Jan. 1888, p. 117.

General Notes

Sitta canadensis appearing in Numbers in the District of Columbia.—Last autumn the writer collected birds quite extensively at Takoma, D.C., and vicinity, especially in the southern part of Montgomery County, Maryland. During all that time and the following winter not a single specimen of the Red-breasted Nuthatch (*S. canadensis*) was observed, and there is every reason to believe that they were not at all represented among the fall migrants of that season (1891-1892). This autumn, however, (1892) the case is entirely different, for in the same localities the bird came early, and in most unusual numbers. They have appeared in loose flocks, associated with the usual autumn small birds, as Juncos, Titmice, Wrens, etc., and upon several occasions one could count as many as thirty or forty of them from a single point of observation. There would be no trouble in collecting as many as fifty specimens in a day. Many birds of the year are among them, as is indicated by their duller plumage and less decided markings. A number of years ago I remember this species appearing thus suddenly one autumn in the neighborhood of Stamford, Connecticut, a place where the writer collected birds for a long time early in the sixties and where the species had not been noticed for many seasons.—R. W. SHUFELDT, Takoma, D. C.

Auk X, Jan. 1893, p. 88.

Winter Birds of Eastern Massachusetts.
H. K. Job.

Red-bellied Nuthatch (*canadensis*): See
under White-bellied Nuthatch (*carolinensis*)

Bull. N. O. C., 8, July, 1888, p. 149.

512. Reply to Ornithological Queries. *Ibid.*, II, pp. 123, 124. Two articles by respectively Wm. L. Kells and Harold Gilbert. They relate to the Whippoorwill, Winter Wren, Hudsonian Titmouse, and Red-bellied Nuthatch.

Can. Sport. & Naturalist

1482. *Sitta Canadensis*. By Ellison A. Smyth, Jr. *Ibid.*, No. 11, Nov., 1886, p. 85.

Rand. Notes Nat. Hist. III

1941. The Red-breasted Nuthatch. By Neil F. Posson. *Ibid.*, No. 4, April, 1889, pp. 37-38.

515. *Sitta canadensis*. By Harold Gilbert. *Ibid.*, II, p. 138. — On its nesting and northern winter limit. Can. Sport. & Naturalist.

*Certhia
americana*

Certhia familiaris americana

1889

Nov. ^{Cp. Wm.} 7¹ 25² 26³ ^{B.2} 27¹ 30² ^{Cp. Sl.} 1889. 14¹ 24¹ 1890. 8² 11¹ 12² 23² 24² 28¹ 29¹ 30¹ 1891.
^{Cp. Wm.} Dec. 7¹ 13² 23¹ 1889. 1¹ 2¹ 3² 10² 22¹ 23¹ 1891.
^{B.2} Jan'y 3¹ 26¹ ^{Wm. I (Dow)} 1890. 15¹ 18¹ 25¹ 25¹ 1891. ^{Cambridge} 10² 22¹
^{Cp. B. Wm.} Feb. 2¹ 3¹ 21¹ 1891. 6¹ 16² 20¹ 21¹ 24¹ 25¹ } Concord 18¹ 6¹ 10¹
^{Cp. B. Wm.} March 5¹ 7¹ 18¹ 1891. 25¹ 1891. 8¹ 9¹ 13¹ 14¹ 16¹ 26¹ Concord
^{Cd.} April 20² 18¹ 92 5¹ 20¹ 30¹ 29²
^{Concord} May 10¹ 18

March ^{Cp.} 22¹ (Dow)

C. americana

September 20¹ 24¹ 28¹ 30¹ Concord

Oct. ^{Milton. Gt. Concord} 11¹ 17¹ 28¹ 29¹ 31¹ 1891. 4¹ 7¹ 10³ 14¹ 30² Concord
^{Concord} 25¹ 30¹

Nov. ^{Concord} 1² 3¹ 5¹ 12¹ 19² 27¹
^{Concord} 1² 6¹ 7¹

Dec. ^{Cd. C. G. G. G.} 8² 10¹ 17¹ 21¹ 24¹

Certhia familiaris americana. D.H. Davis's Hill

September 12, 17, 28" from 1891.

October 12¹ 14¹ 16¹ 17¹ 19¹ 21¹ 23¹ 24¹ Concord 9¹ 1899.

October 25¹ 30¹ 1893 17¹ 22¹ 23¹ 24¹ 25¹ 28¹ 30¹ 31¹ 1896

" Concord 1894 17¹ 19¹ 20¹ 21¹ 24¹ 25¹ 26¹ 27¹ 28¹ 1897

" 8¹ 9¹ 16¹ 17¹ 18¹ 23¹ 25¹ Concord 1895 3¹ 4¹ 8¹ 10¹ 17¹ 19¹ 20¹ 21¹ 24¹ 27¹ 29¹ 1898

November 1¹ 2¹ 5¹ 12¹ 19¹ Concord 27¹ 1893 1¹ 2¹ 3¹ 16¹ 19¹ 20¹ 21¹ 23¹ 1898

4¹ 13¹ 14¹ 21¹ Concord 24¹ 1894 13¹ 16¹ 17¹ 18¹ 20¹ 21¹ 23¹ 1897

3¹ 17¹ 19¹ 25¹ 1895 1¹ 2¹ 3¹ 4¹ 5¹ 6¹ 9¹ 11¹ 16¹ 21¹ 22¹ 28¹ 1898

12¹ 32¹ 4¹ 6¹ 7¹ 8¹ 9¹ 23¹ Concord 27¹ 29¹ 30¹ 1899

December 8¹ 10¹ 17¹ 21¹ 24¹ 1893 12¹ 20¹ 31¹ 1895

" 7¹ 4¹ 8¹ 14¹ 1894 10¹ 11¹ 13¹ 27¹ 1897

" 7¹ 8¹ 10¹ 15¹ 20¹ 30¹ 1895 5¹ 1898

" 7¹ 10¹ 11¹ 12¹ 19¹ 23¹ 1899

January 18¹ 11¹ 14¹ 30¹ 1893 1¹ 4¹ 5¹ 6¹ 8¹ 10¹ 11¹ 17¹ 21¹ 28¹ 29¹ 30¹ 1898

13¹ 16¹ 22¹ 1896

27¹ 1897

February 2¹ 1894 13¹ 1897

" 24¹ 28¹ 1895 1¹ 13¹ 1898

" 13¹ 24¹ 1896 17¹ 20¹ 21¹ 26¹ 1897

March 10¹ 15¹ 24¹ 27¹ 1893 18¹ 22¹ Concord 1898

19¹ 20¹ 21¹ 1896 3¹ 9¹ 15¹ 17¹ 25¹ 29¹ 1897

8¹ 16¹ 22¹ 27¹ 1897

April 3¹ 1896

8¹ 10¹ 11¹ Concord 1897

7¹ 24¹ 1898

May 8¹ from 1893.

C. americana

1889 Mass.

Nov. 30 Near Cambridge. — During the past week I have spent several days in the woods in Belmont, Northton and Lexington and each time have seen two or three Creepers. Every good-sized flock of Chickadees ^{Associating} and Kinglets (*Sitta*) is pretty sure to include ^{with them} a single Creeper but in our instance this autumn ^{& Regular} have I seen more than one. Mr. Mason tells me however that in October he saw two together in one place together in a small grove in company with other birds. To-day, for the first time this season, I found a solitary *Certhia*, in a swampy piece of oak & maple timber. There was no other birds of any kind within sight or hearing. ^{There with} Chickadees & Kinglets the Creeper usually lags a little behind the flock during its progress through the woods for his methodical survey of the tree trunks takes time and he must do his work thoroughly. But he never allows his companions to get far away and if necessary will make a succession of short flights to keep up with them. He always chooses the largest available trunks, but his associates sometimes lead him into places where he is obliged to content himself with ^{the} stems of alders or high bush blueberry only a few inches in thickness. Recently I saw one literally killing time on the dead, ~~fallen~~ branch of an apple tree which some one had cast into a thicket of low bushes when the Chickadees & Kinglets composing the rest of the flock were feeding to apparent advantage. The Creeper, poor fellow, had to make the most of his one available foothold and for ten minutes or more he wound about it diligently every now & then dropping to its base and running up again. By a flight of 100 yds. he might have reached a group of large elms but he evidently preferred good company to a more extensive feeding ground.

Certhia americana

1889 Mass.

Dec. 13 Ashby.-- Two near the village in white pine woods in company with five Chickadees, four Kinglets (*Sitta carolinensis*) and two Bitter canadensis. Not found on Mt. Wataatic.

" 16 Mt. Graylock.-- A single bird in company with Chickadees and Bitter canadensis in a grove of black Spruces on the mountain side at an elevation of about 2200 ft. And Mt. Graylock

1891

March 15 Waltham.-- Four seen by Bolles. "One was in flying described curves and spirals in the air which would have made a Tumbler Pigeon green with envy" Mr. Bolles has seen from one to three or four creepers in flight every time he has been in the woods (once a week regularly and some weeks twice) this winter although the season has been severe with hard weather prevailing most of the time and much snow. I have seen single birds on my place in Cambridge at wide intervals. Describes curves and spirals in flight Winters in numbers.

1893

Feb. 10 Cambridge.-- At least one Creeper has spent the past two months in the vicinity of my place which he has visited once a week or so. I saw him this morning in a pouring rain storm, begging the lee side of one of the lindens, his plumage bedraggled and apparently thoroughly waterlogged. Nevertheless he appeared cheerful enough and was busily searching for food after the usual manner of his kind. Active in a pouring rain storm.

1896 Maine.

June 12 Lake Umbagog. Observed a bird, singing in the woods on Cambridge River.

Certhia americana

1890 Rhode Island

April 18 Second Point. - A Crower spent to-day on West Id. On a
where there is not a tree or even a single bush. Trees
He flitted about among the rocks crawling into island,
some of the crevices & climbing up the face of
vertical boulders, Most of the time, however, he
was feeding on the ground where he hopped about
among the grass precisely like a sparrow. He
seemed to find abundant food for standing
within a few feet of him, I could see that
he swallowed some small morsel every few seconds.
Sometimes he would pick them morsels from
the grass ~~He sometimes~~ ^{sometimes} thrust his bill
into the soft earth for them. I suppose he was
eating larvae. He worked & hopped nimbly &
covered as much ground as would a sparrow in
the same length of time. When flushed he
would flit a few yards & alight again. Then
he perched on the top of weed stalks like a
sparrow. Once I saw him void his excrement
while hopping on the ground & he raised his
tail just as if he were on a tree trunk.
He once visited and hopped over the mother
thawed lawn in front of the house. He
was very tame

" 19 A bird, apparently the same, in the same place.
He spent the forenoon hopping about on the trees.
In the afternoon I saw him making frequent,
very adroit, & apparently successful sallies after
flying insects from the roof of a shed.

" 20 A bird doubtless the same, in the same place this
morning again hopping on the lawn & among the grass on
back side. There are clusters of trees of great size on the point of land
the land within 100 yds of the point of land. 9.

Certhia americana fusca.

Cambridge, Mass.

January birds in the Garden.

1899.
January.

The Creepers, with the timidity characteristic of their kind, never ventured to approach the suet when any of the other birds were engaged at it. It was amusing to watch one of them slowly climbing the opposite side of the elm pretending to regard the bark closely but at every convenient opportunity peeping around the bole to see if the Chickadee or Sparrow had departed, and, if he had not, dropping to the foot of the tree and ascending again, often repeating this many times ~~times~~ in succession. When the coast was finally & clear the Creeper would alight on the top of the suet and eat greedily for several minutes never pecking at it vigorously as did ~~the~~ Chickadees and Woodpeckers but laboriously prying or tearing out shreds or fragments, often of such large size that he had difficulty in swallowing them.

Twice during the month I saw a Creeper descend to the ground under the elm and ramble over a large area of bare and frozen turf, moving rather gracefully and easily by a succession of elastic Sparrow-like hops. His head was carried high, his neck, which was held at nearly right angles with the body, appeared unusually slender and elongated. He frequently stopped to pick up something from the surface of the ground, possibly small particles of suet which had fallen from above. Once the bird was joined by a large flock of English Sparrows whose presence, strange to say, did not appear to disconcert

Certhia familiaris fusca.

Cambridge, Mass.

January birds in the Garden.

1899. him in the least.

January. The Brown Creeper while ascending the trunk of a tree (No.2) ordinarily carries his tail nearly in a line with his body but with the spiny tips of the rectrices pressed lightly against the bark. Occasionally, however, the tail is jerked sharply outward and upward at each upward hop. This motion always accompanies the act of voiding the excrement.

At about 9 A.M. on the morning of the 9th a Creeper in one of our apple trees gave the full spring song twice in quick succession but in rather subdued tones. The weather, at the time, was mild with a fine rain falling.

February birds in the Garden.

A single Creeper seen on the 17th, 20th and 21st. On February. the 26th two birds appeared together in the elm over the driveway. One of them did something which I have never before seen nor even, I think, heard of. He was ascending the trunk of the tree and had just passed the base of the branch on which the suet hangs when a Sparrow that had been feeding at the suet flew away. The Creeper at once turned about and descended the vertical trunk for a distance of nearly two feet, moving head downward, like a Nuthatch, and with perfect apparent ease, although rather slowly and cautiously. On reaching the branch he followed it out to the suet which he

Certhia f. americana.

Cambridge, Mass.

1899. at once attacked but before he had taken many mouthfuls a
February. Sparrow came and frightened him away. This was the only
(No.2) occasion in February when I saw a Creeper at the suet.

The bird noted on the 21st sang twice and in tones so loud and
clear that I heard him distinctly as I sat at my desk in the
museum with the windows closed.

March birds in the Garden.

A single Creeper seen on the 3, 9, 15, 17 and 25th. On
March. the 29th four birds were seen together in the large willows
at the N. W. end of the garden. They came flying across the
garden in quick succession and when all were assembled chased
each other around the trunk and among the branches. The willow
contained, for a brief time, not only these Creepers but
four Chickadees and a Downy Woodpecker. The full song of the
Creeper was heard on the 9th and 15th and on the morning of
the 29th a bird sang at short, regular intervals for nearly
an hour and in tones as loud and clear as I have ever heard
in the Maine woods. On the 17th I saw a Brown Creeper run
down the lower part of the trunk of an elm for a distance of
two feet or more to the ground on reaching which it hopped
about precisely like Spizella socialis, stopping every now and
then to pick up and swallow a fragment of suet which had
fallen from above.

Certhia f. americana

Mr. William Brewster,

Dear Sir,

In your
Editorial notes to "Minot's
Birds of New England," you
state that The Brown
Creeper has been known
to breed in Eastern Mass.
acres, in only two
instances. So I thought
you might be interested
to know that a pair of
them are nesting in
Audover this year. I

discovered them on April
19th, when building
operations were well
under way. The nest
is placed within a
loose sheath of bark,

ANDOVER, MASS., May 17 1898

about three feet from
the base of a dead oak.

Possibly this item
is of no importance; but
I feel a bit of amateurish
enthusiasm at my discovery
and a consequent desire
to communicate it to
someone.

Truly Yours
H. J. Ford

Andover, Mass

April 23 '88

H. J. Ford
After 5 days, return to
PHILLIPS ACADEMY,
ANDOVER, MASS.

Mr. William Brewster.

My Dear Sir,

In reply to your
kind letter of yesterday in regard to
The Creeper, I quote the following
memoranda from my note book:-

April 26, nest apparently completed. No eggs.

May 6 - Three eggs.

May 13 - Six eggs.

So it seems as if they would
raise a brood all right.

I was much interested
to learn the other day that Mr. E. J.
Brewster of our Faculty is a cousin
of yours. Thanking you for your
kindness in replying to my letter
I am,
Sincerely Yours,
Howard J. Ford

Phillips Academy,
Andover, Mass.

Mr. William Brewster,

My Dear Sir,

You will
recall me as your recent
correspondent concerning the
Brown Creeper. I am glad
to say that ^{they} reared their
brood successfully.

I am going to
add a few notes concerning
some of the rarer birds
of Andover, ~~that~~ thinking
that perhaps they may be
useful to you in compiling
statistics of the ranges of
the several species.

The blue-headed
vireo, I have found much
" " " " " "

more abundant than the field-birds seem to indicate.

I see & hear them in various parts of the town, and, without making any special search, I have found two nests. ^{open} The white-eyed, however, I have not seen at all, or at least have not recognized.

Near "Foster's Pond" in the southern part of the town is a small swamp where the Parula Warblers are abundant. I found one nest - (8 eggs) June 10, constructed of the usual moss which grows abundantly there.

At one end of the same swamp, I frequently

Phillips Academy,
Andover, Mass.

see and hear one Canadian Warbler. But I have not found them elsewhere (have in migration-time) and haven't discovered the nest of this one. Though I should judge that he has a mate & a nest in the vicinity.

^{open} Hermit - Thrushes are also rather common about this pond though I have not met with them elsewhere.

May I ask your advice on the following point?

I am planning next week for a short sea-trip up towards the Provinces & should

W. S. Dord

like to stop off for a few
days at - some place
when I could find a good
variety of the northern species,
especially the warblers. When
would you suggest?

If you can take the
trouble to advise me in
the matter, I shall be
very much obliged.

Sincerely Yours
Howard J. Ford

Andover Mass

June 17, '98.

Andover Mass

June 23 '98

Mr. William Brewster

My Dear Sir

I thank
you very much for the
information you have
sent me concerning
the habitats of the
northern birds. I shall
find it very useful in
planning my vacation trip.

You ask about
the kind of tree in which the
creepers nests was placed. It
was in a dead oak, placed
within a sheath of loose bark
about four feet from the
ground. The tree stands in an
oak grove which lies between
cultivated fields on the one hand
& an extensive swamp on the
other.

Sincerely Yours
H. J. Ford

Certhia f. americana.

Three on June 25 1890 at
Mountain View House, Hanover, Mass
WHITEFIELD, N. H.

July 10 '99.

Mr. Wm. Brewster,

Dear Sir,

Possibly you
will recall me as the
one who mole you from
Andover, Mass. a year
ago last April, telling
of my finding the nest
of the Brown Creeper.

While on a visit
to Hanover Mass (about
25 miles south of Boston)
on the 25th of last
month, I saw three
creepers. Not having my
field glass with me,
I could not determine
whether any of them were

immature specimens. They
were travelling from tree
to tree together in family
fashion, chirping to each
other frequently.

Possibly, This note
may be of no importance,
but as I had sent
you the item referred
to above, I thought I
would send this also.

Truly Yours

Howard J. Ford

Birds of Upper St. John,
Batchelder.

11. *Certhia familiaris* Linn. BROWN CREEPER.—Seen occasionally
at Fort Fairfield. Breeds. Rare at Grand Falls. "Common" at Houlton.

Bull, N. O. C. 7, April, 1882, p. 109

Last Lakes Migratory Birds observed by
E. D. Wintle, Fall 1885, Montreal, Can.

Oct. 31. Brown Creeper.

O. & O. XI, Mar. 1886, p. 44.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by Denis W. Fleming.
Part II. Land Birds.
Duck, x x iv, Jan. 1907, p. 86.

276. *Certhia familiaris americana*. BROWN CREEPER.—Common
migrant, April 4 to May 24, and September 27 to October 15; irregular
winter resident, December 15 to March 8; possibly a rare summer resident.

69,

Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region,
Nipissing District, Ontario.

by Frederick C. Hubel, Duck, x x iv, Jan. 1907, p. 52.

69. *Certhia familiaris americana*. BROWN CREEPER.—Very abundant everywhere.

Summer Birds Tim Pond Me. by F. H. C.

Brown Creeper, (*Certhia familiaris rufa*). Only one seen.

O. & O. XI, Feb. 1886, p. 25.

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C.

13. *Certhia familiaris rufa*, (Brown Creeper). This species was observed to be equally common

in all portions of both counties in spring and summer. A nest found June 5th was placed under a loosened cedar "splint" on the roof of an old and deserted log cabin; it contained five eggs nearly fresh. As they are well known, no description is necessary.

O. & O. XI, Aug. 1886, p. 115

Certhia americana, - Profile House, N. H. Aug. 1865.

Certhia familiaris americana, - Common, Profile House, N. H. Aug. 1-12-1867.

Certhia fam. americana, - Aug. 1 Profile House N. H. July 27-Aug. 7. 1886

Winter Birds of Webster, N. H. by Falco.

Brown Creeper, (*Certhia familiaris rufa*).

O. & O. X, Jan. 1885, p. 14

**Summer Birds of Presidential Range,
White Mts. A. P. Chadbourne**

39. *Certhia familiaris americana*. BROWN CREEPER.—Not common anywhere. The lowest point at which it was seen on the mountain was 3140 feet, and the highest near the tree limit in Tuckerman's Ravine, at an elevation of 4100 feet.

Auk, 4. April 1887, p. 102

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N. H. June 11-21
'86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87, W. Faxon

76. *Certhia familiaris americana*. BROWN CREEPER.—Rare.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 153

**Bird Notes, Central N. H. Winter '91-92
J. H. Johnson**

American Brown Creeper, quite common.

O. & O. Vol. 17, May 1892 p. 72

75. *Certhia familiaris americana* VI

75. *Certhia familiaris americana*. BROWN CREEPER.—Only one observed, near the upper edge of the timber.

By August M. Thomas. Date, XVII, Oct., 1891. 1893.

Certhia Jan. Dec. 2nd - 31st 1884 - E. Mass.

103, *Certhia* E. Mass. 1885 Nov. 30th (1885)

Nov. 21-23, 1886. *Certhia americana* - 21st - 22nd - 23rd Great Id. Mass.:

5 *Certhia am.* Nov. 8th E. Mass. 1886.

Great Id. Mass. Dec. 1886.
Certhia americana 16th

Certhia americana, Mass. - near Cambridge.

1886 Feb. 22nd

" March 5th - 6th - 14th - 17th

Mass. (near Cambridge).

1887

April 6th

Certhia americana.

1887

April 12¹

Certhia americana.

Mass. (near Cambridge).

1887

Oct. 5¹

Nov. 8³ - 9² - 20¹

Dec. 14¹

1888

Jan'y. 27¹ - 29¹ - 30¹

Feb. 1¹ - 10¹ - 13³

Certhia americana

Mass. (near Concord).

1888

APR 12³

Certhia americana.

Mass. (S. Watertown). 1888

Certhia americana

1888

March 22

Five in one piece of woods, two (a pair) in one group, three in another about 100 yds. away. I shot the pair, Chaddock the other three. All had the tails worn and stubby, the terminal spines blunt & inconspicuous. As there were no creepers in these woods during February I infer them are migrants.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Certhia familiaris americana (Bonap.), Brown
Creeper. Resident, common during the winter.

Eds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire
Co. Mass. June 28-July 16. W. Faxon

69. *Certhia familiaris americana*. AMERICAN BROWN CREEPER.—
Common in the coniferous forest of the Saddle-Back Mountains.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 105

Auk, XIII, Oct., 1896, p. 346.

Certhia f. americana

Plymouth Co., Mass., in summer.

A. P. Chabourne.

Stearns and Gates New Eng. Bird Life.

Review by Wm Brewster.

Certhia familiaris.—The statement that "the Brown Creeper is resident throughout New England and a common bird in all suitable localities" is perhaps not sufficiently qualified by the reservation that it breeds "chiefly in the Canadian Fauna." The three southern New England States have now been comparatively well explored, and the record by Mr. Allen of a nest seen at Springfield, and another by Dr. Brewer of one found near Taunton, with Mr. Merriam's simple statement that it "breeds" in Connecticut, are all the reliable data that we have for attributing it to the Alleghanian Fauna of New England. Opposed to this is the great mass of negative testimony on the part of numerous local observers who have never found the bird in summer at all. While it must be admitted that there is something to be said on both sides of the question, we cannot at present believe that the breeding of the Creeper south of the Canadian Fauna is otherwise than a rare and exceptional occurrence.

Bull. N. O. C., 3, Oct., 1881, p. 238.

Birds observed in Naval Hospital
Grounds, Brooklyn. G.H. Coues

24. *Certhia familiaris*. BROWN CREEPER.—Common.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 32

Birds at Fort Hamilton, L.I. Berrier.

The fall of 1879 was remarkable for
the unusual numbers of

Brown Creepers (*Certhia familiaris*)

Bull. N.O.C. 6, Jan., 1881, p. 12.

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
O.H. Merriam.

16. *Certhia familiaris rufa* (Bartr.) Ridgw. BROWN CREEPER.—Tolerably common summer resident, breeding about the lakes. Have seen it in February, but do not think it winters here with any kind of regularity.

Bull. N.O.C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 22.

Onsida County, New York,
William L. Ralph & Egbert Bagg

Certhia familiaris americana.—Since the nest described in the List, we have taken three more, all near Holland Patent, and each placed under a loose piece of bark beside the trunk of a dead tree. The first was taken June 15, 1888, and contained four young birds ready to fly and two addled eggs. The second was taken June 21, 1888, and contained five nearly fresh eggs. The third, taken June 30, 1888, contained six fresh eggs.

Auk, VII. July, 1890, p. 232.

*Notes on the birds of Madison County, New York,
with especial reference to Embury's recent list.*

34. *Certhia familiaris americana*. BROWN CREEPER.—Mr. Embury's records indicate that it breeds near Hamilton, and according to Mr. Miller it breeds at Peterboro.

By William R. Mapon. Auk, XX, July, 1903, p. 266,

Notes from Western New York.
Maurice C. Blake, Hanover, N.H.

Certhia familiaris americana.—Two singing Brown Creepers observed along West River, Yates County on June 3, 1906, would seem to indicate a strong probability that this bird breeds there.

Auk, 24, Apr., 1907, p. 225.

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

Certhia familiaris rufa. BROWN CREEPER.

Some feeble notes, suggestive of those of *Regulus satrapa*, are this bird's usual utterance during its visit. Its song I have never heard.

Auk, I, April, 1884. p. 136.

Brown Creeper.

It is late in the winter and old Boreas is rattling the bare branches and whirling the snow with unwonted savageness, for he is venting his spite in advance for the defeat he is soon to suffer. In yonder moaning bit of pine woods has gathered a little company of birds, widely diverse in their mode of life, but called together by the welcome shelter that the sturdy pines extend to them. Here may be seen the hardy Crossbills and Siskins braving even the howling blast to obtain their favorite pine cones; the noisy Blue Jay for once awed into silence uttering but a deprecatory squeak at your intrusion and skulking a little further into the forest. The staid and sober Nuthatch can be seen and heard as he searches for dormant insects, accompanied by the ubiquitous Chickadee whose varied and cheerful notes make him doubly interesting. But last and least, in size that is, far up on the trunk of that old tree a timid, little peeping note can be heard, and looking up you behold a little Creeper moving about in an apologetic manner, as if aware that he intrudes on the rather limited larder of the Nuthatches and Chickadees.

But as the days slip by Boreas becomes less and less obtrusive, and on awakening some morning you find that spring has at last verified the prediction of her heralds, the Robins and Bluebirds. The Redpolls and Snow Bunting have followed their vanquished lord to the frozen regions of the north, and the zealous student of nature leaves even the bottomless mud of the country roads in order to greet his feathered friends. After a tour of the fields and byways he finds himself once again among the pines. The Creepers have acquired new confidence by increase of numbers, and now take their well-known spiral route about the trees with a sprightly and joyous air that is in marked contrast with his conduct of a few weeks before. He has now a song which he utters while in motion; it begins with a clear whistle followed after a slight pause by an ascending warble of two notes, the last with a guttural ending; then follows another whistle like the first, ending with two whistles, the first the higher. The whole is uttered very quickly in a jerky manner, the time varying with every note.

In the first part of April every orchard and shade tree contains its quota of these birds, and every opportunity is given to the most casual observer for watching their habits. They display great dexterity in keeping out of sight always without appearing to be at any pains to avoid you. At first he alights about three feet from the ground on some old apple tree, and ascending in a spiral direction picks off the insects which he meets, jumping rapidly backwards down the trunk to research any spot that he has not looked over thoroughly, ever and anon springing into the air to seize a fly. On gaining the top he flies hurriedly to the foot of the next. In this manner he quickly goes through an orchard doing almost incalculable good in destroying its yet undeveloped pests. At this time of year in addition to the song described above he sometimes utters another entirely different. This begins with three notes of the same pitch, followed by one lower which is in turn followed by one lower still ended by three quick notes starting low and ending at the pitch of the first. For about two weeks they are very abundant, but at the end of that period they disappear from the haunts of man and must again be sought in the pinery. Here a few pairs carry on their love making, chasing and flying around a tree, hopping backwards and forwards, the male stopping every once in a while to utter his love song. This begins with three notes followed by two lower; it ends with a rising series of three notes, beginning low. Thus it resembles the song, or a song rather, of the Black-throated Green Warbler, except that the three last notes instead of being distinct are elided, while a slight difference can readily be distinguished in the first part of the song. I have never succeeded in finding the nest so I can give no description of the eggs.

Stewart E. White.

Grand Rapids, Kent Co., Mich.

May 15, July 1890, p. 101-102.

pulled down to make the nest more comfortable, thus covering the egg.

The two eggs are dull white, with a scarcely perceptible yellowish tinge. The surface is quite smooth, and has the appearance of having been punctured with a fine point over the whole egg. They are oblong-oval in shape, more pointed at one end. The smaller measures $1.17 \times .87$ inches, the other is more pointed and measures $1.18 \times .90$ inches. Incubation was far advanced, and the embryos were extracted with difficulty.

SANTA CRUZ, CAL.

NOTE. — To prevent confusion in respect to the history of the nidification of this species, it may be well to state that the only previous account of its eggs (given by Captain Charles Bendire in Proc. Bost. Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. XIX, 1877, p. 232) was also based on those here described, — a fact unknown to Mr. Cooper at the time his paper was written, and which became developed only by subsequent correspondence with Mr. Cooper in relation to the matter. — J. A. A.

THE AMERICAN BROWN CREEPER.

BY T. M. BREWER.

For a species so abundant at certain seasons, so widely distributed over North America, and so well known to all ornithologists, there is, even at this day, a surprising amount of doubt, and a deficiency of positive knowledge in regard to several points in the history of our common Creeper that are inferred rather than actually known. I propose to touch upon a few of these.

In "North American Birds" the Creeper is assigned a distribution from the Gulf of Mexico to high northern latitudes. This, of course, does not mean Arctic regions, nor should it be understood as including localities destitute of forests. An implied doubt has been recently suggested as to the extent of its northern habitat, merely because Audubon did not happen to meet with it in Labrador, and because Richardson makes no mention of it in the "Fauna Boreali-Americana." But no importance can be attached to this silence. If Audubon did not meet with it in Labrador, it was probably because he explored very little of the land and none of the forests, but other explorers in Labrador have been more successful.

NESTING OF *CERTHIA FAMILIARIS*.—Having read with interest Dr. Brewer's article on the Brown Creeper in the last number of the Bulletin, I desire to add one more instance in confirmation of his opinion as to the usual situation of its nest. I have in my collection two eggs of this bird, which were obtained July 28, 1875, by a friend of mine who is something of an ornithologist. The nest was situated in the heavy forest, half a mile north of Moose Pine, Hamilton County, N. Y., concealed behind a piece of bark which had been partly torn loose from the side of a spruce-tree, about six feet from the ground. The bird was well seen and identified by my friend (who is familiar with the species), but was not shot. In describing the nest to me he used these words: "The nest was made of soft downy materials, including feathers and such soft materials as you will find in a squirrel's nest. The whole bulk was not larger than your fist." It contained three young birds with down only in tufts upon them, and two added eggs, white, thinly marked with fine reddish spots or dots, and measuring .60 x .47 and .59 x .47. — EGBERT BAGG, JR., *Utica, N. Y.* **Bull. N. O. C.** 4, July, 1879, p. 183.

The Creeper. (*Certhia familiaris*.)

BY W. WELLS BLADEN, STONE, STAFFORDSHIRE, ENG.

As the Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*) is common to both the Old and New World, I thought that some observations upon its nesting habits would interest your readers.

The Creepers are sub-divided into several species, varying in color, and the rufous form which is found in Western North America, is undistinguishable from the British form of which I write.

In May last year a friend and I went to explore a tree in Sandon Park which has the local reputation of being an "Owl-Tree." It is an old Elm of which only some ten feet of trunk remain. As soon as we arrived at the tree, my friend exclaimed "Here's a Creeper's nest" and between the loose bark and trunk we found a nest containing four lovely eggs. Scarcely had we found them, when a Creeper flew from behind the bark about a yard above, and on examining the place we found a second nest, which was empty. I visited the tree a week later, and not finding any eggs in the second nest, pulled it out for the purpose of examination. It exactly fitted the crevice from which I took it, the bottom part was composed of fine twigs then roots and moss with a lining of fine strips of inside bark, and chips of decayed wood. Upon pulling it to pieces, I was surprised to find in the middle five Creeper's eggs, apparently a full clutch—two of them I broke, and the jellied state of the contents showed they were far from fresh; evidently the bird had forsaken them and built upon the top of them. About ten days afterwards I found yet another Creeper's nest in a different part of the same trunk, close to where the first one was built, but no further eggs were laid. I watched the tree closely on various occasions, and only saw the one pair of birds, these I believe built the four nests.

The Creeper rears two broods in the year, the first clutch being from six to nine in number. The eggs differ considerably in the amount and arrangement of marking, but those of a clutch are much alike. They are pure white in ground colors, beautifully marked with brownish red spots; these form a zone round the larger end, at other times are more generally distributed. In length they are .7 or slightly under, and in breadth .5 inch.

O. & O. X. Feb. 1885. p. 23.

The Oologist. 1875. Nest of the Brown Creeper. By Wm. L. Kells. *Ibid.*, p. 25.—**Ark. VII. Jan. 1880. p. 31.**

Birds of the H. Sunday Mountains Arthur Lemoine.

CERTHIA FAMILIARIS AMERICANA.

Brown Creeper.

This quaint little bird was found in the evergreens on the mountains, in preference to other localities, excepting during the winter months, when it may be met with in the valleys. Its habits are too well known to further enlarge upon in these columns, with one exception, its nidification, which has not been often published. Only once have I observed it nesting in these mountains. On May 15, 1885, I saw one of these birds fly to the trunk of a spruce, the top of which had been broken off, and the stub having lost its vitality had cast its bark, which was hanging loosely from it. The bird was quickly followed by his mate, which was carrying in her bill a few feathers. Marking the spot where she disappeared behind the rough bark I left her to perform her labors. In ten days I returned, and upon thumping the tree she flew from her nest. Cutting a "staddle," I mounted the trunk of the stub, until I could reach the rift behind which the nest was placed. The nest was a medley of lichens, *usnea*, moss, feathers, grass and a few rootlets, in which was placed five eggs, much resembling Chickadees, being a trifle smaller. Another set of six eggs brought me by a lad, were profusely spotted with bright brown spots. This set was, according to the statement of the finder, taken from a nest placed in a crevice in one of the logs of a fence.

O. & O. XI. Dec. 1886 p. 179.

minutes both would return and repeat the performance. After this I again visited the nest to find in it three fresh eggs; those I carefully packed in a small tin box, but in trying to get to a Sparrow Hawk's nest I lost the box. The nest was composed of the fine inner bark of trees and was very shallow.

O. & O. XV. June 1890. p. 22.

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As the Creeper (*Certhia familiaris*) is common to both the Old and New World, I thought that some observations upon its nesting habits would interest your readers.

The Creepers are sub-divided into several species, varying in color, and the rufous form which is found in Western North America, is undistinguishable from the British form of which I write.

In May last year a friend and I went to explore a tree in Sandon Park which has the local reputation of being an "Owl-Tree." It is an old Elm of which only some ten feet of trunk remain. As soon as we arrived at the tree, my friend exclaimed "Here's a Creeper's nest" and between the loose bark and trunk we found a nest containing four lovely eggs. Scarcely had we found them, when a Creeper flew from behind the bark about a yard above, and on examining the place we found a second nest, which was empty. I visited the tree a week later, and not finding any eggs in the second nest, pulled it out for the purpose of examination. It exactly fitted the crevice from which I took it, the bottom part was composed of fine twigs then roots and moss with a lining of fine strips of inside bark, and chips of decayed wood. Upon pulling it to pieces, I was surprised to find in the middle five Creeper's eggs, apparently a full clutch—two of them I broke, and the jellied state of the contents showed they were far from fresh; evidently the bird had forsaken them and built upon the top of them. About ten days afterwards I found yet another Creeper's nest in a different part of the same trunk, close to where the first one was built, but no further eggs were laid. I watched the tree closely on various occasions, and only saw the one pair of birds, these I believe built the four nests.

The Creeper rears two broods in the year, the first clutch being from six to nine in number. The eggs differ considerably in the amount and arrangement of marking, but those of a clutch are much alike. They are pure white in ground colors, beautifully marked with brownish red spots; these form a zone round the larger end, at other times are more generally distributed. In length they are .7 or slightly under, and in breadth .5 inch.

O. & O. X, Feb. 1885, p. 23.

The Oologist. 1875. *Nest of the Brown Creeper.* By Wm. L. Kells. *Ibid.*, p. 25.—**Aug. VII, Jan. 1890, p. 41.**

Birds of the H. Sunday Mountains
Arthur Lemoine.

in this region.
early settlers when the gaudy Parakeets hocked
herabulous and was doubtless bestowed by the
There is a name which designates many localities
fire I struck a blind trail through Parrot Ridge.
bottle, and having secured the means of making a
So I made a short detour to an old stump where
useless as a specimen she was welcome as a lunch.
for she lost her head at about ten paces. Though
reach. But a Chapter Hall was not so fortunate
pines, but all were too wary to come within

Birds Tloga Co. N. Y. Alden Loring.

55. Brown Creeper. Common. This is another one of our winter visitors. This bird did not come under my observation until 1887 when I shot the first one I ever saw, and the summer of 1887 when I had the good luck to find a nest. When first found it was not completed. It was placed under a piece of bark which was on a tall dead tree and was about ten feet from the ground. I watched the birds as they built it. The male was quite diligent, and I noticed that when he came out before her he would creep up the tree four or five feet and then fly down (never crept) to the nest, and if she did not make her appearance for some time he would look in and they would have a little chat together. After awhile they would both come out and fly away. In a few minutes both would return and repeat the performance. After this I again visited the nest to find in it three fresh eggs; these I carefully packed in a small tin box, but in trying to get to a Sparrow Hawk's nest I lost the box. The nest was composed of the fine inner bark of trees and was very shallow.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 82

NESTING HABITS OF THE BROWN CREEPER
AS OBSERVED IN PLYMOUTH COUNTY,
MASSACHUSETTS, WITH DESCRIPTION OF A NEST FROM
NORTH SCITUATE.¹

BY ARTHUR P. CHADBOURNE, M. D.

Plates VI-IX.

EVER since 1896, when I first spoke of the Brown Creeper (*Certhia familiaris americana*) as undoubtedly breeding in one of the white cedar swamps so common throughout Plymouth County, Mass.,² I have found these birds each summer during May or June with the single exception of 1899, when I was unable to look for them until July. My efforts to find the nest, however, were unsuccessful until May, 1900, when I discovered one at North Scituate, Mass., only a short distance from what is not inappropriately called "the shore of the swamp." The swamp in question is large and cut up into a number of narrow strips, each not unlike a yard stick in shape, and having different owners; consequently the growth varies on each strip according to the time at which the timber was last cut off. A few of the lots are still covered with old cedar; but the greater part is large second-growth, and mixed hardwood; in other cases, almost clear cedar, from fifteen to thirty-five feet in height. Scattered about in the hardwood, and, to a less extent in the cedar, are numerous white pines, hemlocks, and here and there yellow, or, as they are locally called, "swamp pines." It was on the southern edge of one of these narrow strips, which had been cut "clean" two years before, that I found the present nest. Deep mud and water had made the place almost inaccessible until last year (1899), when the water was more or less drained off by a ditch. Around this clearing the growth is chiefly cedar and hemlock, with a few old white

¹ This was written, to a large extent, in 1900. The article, by Messrs. Kenard and McKechnie which also appears in this number of 'The Auk,' covers the published accounts of the nesting of the Creeper in the southern part of its range, and I have omitted, therefore, what I had written on this subject.

² Cf. Auk, Vol. XIII, 1896, p. 346.

THE BROWN CREEPER NESTING IN THE CYPRESS
SWAMP OF SOUTHEASTERN MISSOURI.

Auk, XII, Oct., 1895, pp. 350-5.

BY O. WIDMANN.

It was a few minutes after five in the morning of June 2, 1894, when I heard a shrill whistle of four distinct notes, *tsee, tsee, dill did*, something entirely new and not attributable to any bird of my knowledge. The whistle was repeated about a dozen times, at intervals of a few seconds, and it came from a distance of less than twenty yards, but the light of the young day had not yet mastered the gloom of the forest, and when the song ceased I had no idea to what family the songster might belong.

Of one thing I was positive: the notes did not belong to any of our regular breeders. This was enough to arouse my curiosity to the utmost, since I knew that spring migration was over in that region. The very latest of migrants had left it, and only summer sojourners were met with the last few days. A roving flock of Cedarbirds was the only species that had not yet settled down to domestic life. Indeed, fall migration had already begun, if it is allowed to regard the flocking of young Bronzed Grackles into a common roost as the first stage of it. The only hope to identify my bird was by waiting patiently until it would sing again. So I waited near the trees where I had heard the song.

The forest was full of bird song at this early hour and it resembled with its arched tupelos and pillar-like cypresses a huge cathedral; the floor a blinking sheet of water without any underbrush; the aisles resonant with the monotonies of Protonotaria; the cornices tenanted by a choir of noisy Redeyes, Redstarts and Cerulean Warblers, with frequent *verrees* of the Yellow-throated Vireo, and occasional outbursts by an exalted Baltimore or Orchard Oriole.

As time wore on, all birds of the forest had their turn in singing. Now and then the Parula and Sycamore Warblers laid in a few repetitions of their lofty cheerings and the Wood Thrush became loud in the praise of the pleasant coolness of the morning hours.

Overhead were frequent bickerings in the sphere of a pair of Wood Pewees, who were busily engaged in the construction of their nest. There were Acadian Flycatchers with startling exclamations and mysterious wing-whistlings, soliloquies of the Warbling Vireo, effusions by Indigos and Cardinals, innumerable *willitskis* of the Maryland Yellow-throat, and from time to time a modest opinion by the weather-wise Cuckoo.

As the hours passed on and the sun's rays had destroyed all dimness in the forest, the Wood Thrush turned the leadership over to the Summer Tanager, and the pauses made by the earlier songsters grew longer and longer. Two pairs of Hooded Mergansers, who at first had been much incommoded by my presence and had repeatedly shown their anxiety by circling wildly and with notes of alarm through the treetops, were now visiting their nest-holes without fear. At this season the beauty of the male's dress and coiffure is entirely gone; both parents resemble each other so much that they are generally mistaken for female Wood Ducks, which are also very common breeders in these swamps. Both species breed sometimes together in small colonies and so near human habitations that their coming and going may easily be watched by the people. A lady residing at Byrd's Mill witnessed the act of removing the young from the nest, sixty feet above ground. The young were brought down, one by one, clinging to the back of the parent and holding fast with the bill. That they are clever climbers I can testify myself; I have seen them climb up the inside of a drygoods box, two feet high, holding fast to the planed boards with their sharp claws and stiff tail-feathers.

It was now ten o'clock and my patience was nearly gone. Every noise in the forest had been attentively listened to and every moving speck followed, but in vain. Silence began to become oppressive. I rapped woodpecker-fashion against a half-rotten stump. Almost as if by magic a pair of Pileated Woodpeckers appeared on the scene; a second rap brought them still nearer, evidently bent on the closest investigation.

At the same time the four shrill notes were heard in close proximity and turning in the direction a small bird was seen flitting past and alighting against the trunk of a tupelo a few

feet above the water and only a few yards from where I was half-hidden among fallen timber and stumps. It began to sing as soon as it had alighted and hopping up the side of the tree repeated the strange notes several times. There was no doubt possible, the bird was less than ten yards from me, in good light for half a minute as it went up the tree in its well-known fashion; it was *Certhia*, the Brown Creeper. My surprise was so much greater since I thought I had become acquainted with the song of that bird during a visit to this region in March, when I had heard it almost daily and on some days quite often.

Of course, I began at once to look about for the traditional detached bark, but there was so much of that article on the old dead cypresses that I had to give up the idea of hunting for its nest. I lingered for another hour, but my patience was exhausted and I left the home of the Missouri *Certhia* to its rightful owners, including mosquitos and moccasins, both of which seemed to become provoked by my persistent stay.

In May, 1895, I visited the same locality again. I did not meet with *Certhia* on the first day; but on the morning of the second, May 15, I had hardly entered the swamp, when I heard its song and a few moments after saw the bird, a Brown Creeper, alight against a dead cypress (*Taxodium distichum*) five feet above the water. The tree or stump was about fifty feet high and two feet in diameter. Its base was devoid of bark and on one side the bark had detached itself in a sheet, fifteen feet long and was hanging down like a streamer. Above, the bark was peeling off in shreds, and the whole stump was a picture of dilapidation and dissolution.

The bird hopped deliberately up to a place where the bark was loosened in such a way as to form a pocket, closed above and below and on one side, with an opening of one and one-half inches at its widest. There the bird halted just one second, peeped in, flitted to another tree, and gave a song.

This peeping into that pocket looked suspicious, and I thought I would like to peep in myself. But how to get there? It was fourteen feet above the water and climbing out of question. I had to get a ladder. That was no easy matter, but an hour later I came back with a boy, a small spoon, and a home-made ladder of barbarous weight.

Yes, there was the nest as I suspected; a bulky accumulation of shreds of cypress bark loosely thrown in below, but more and more compact toward the elliptical cavity, which was an inch deep and warmly lined with a felt-like material. Imbedded in, and partly covered with felt lay one egg of white color with fine red dots. I did not disturb the nest and quietly left the place.

At first I cherished visions of such a desirable thing as a full set, but recalling instances when rare opportunities were lost by too long waiting, I returned on the 17th, took the three eggs which the nest contained, sawed off the detached plate of bark, about 8-16 inches, liberated the nest from its imprisonment and my mind from the growing fear to lose it.

The nest had the peculiar structure, by which the nest of the species may always be known from other nests in similar situations, and which is minutely described by Mr. Brewster in Volume IV of the Nuttall Bulletin.

The locality where the nest was found is the Little River overflow, east of Cotton Plant, Dunklin Co., Mo., seven miles from the south line of the peninsula. The flora as well as the ornithology of this region is highly interesting. While the botanist finds that the Floridan and Texan floras meet in the sandy fields and swampy woods of the Peninsula of Missouri, the ornithologist who sees the Canada Goose and Black Vulture, the Brown Creeper and Swainson's Warbler on neighboring breeding grounds, is liable to have new surprises at every visit.

Though only a ridge of a few miles in width separates the Little River region from the St. Francis basin, both flora and ornithology differ somewhat, the latter mainly through absence from the Little River region of birds which habitually feed on dry ground. The stage of water in the St. Francis is dependent only on the precipitation in the region which it drains; it rises to a well defined height which it reaches every year and from which it slowly recedes in summer.

With the Little River it is different; bayous connect it with the Mississippi and a high stage in the latter pours its muddy waters through the bayous into the Little River, causing a rise of five or six feet above the ordinary yearly overflow. The occurrence of such great floods has been uncomfortably frequent of late; that

of 1893 came within one foot of the highest known to white settlers, that of 1882.

During these inundations the waters remain from one to two weeks, sufficiently long to drown a variety of plants and to kill others by covering them with a sticky coat of mud.

Such floods have been so much more effective destroyers of vegetation as they occurred late in spring, even in June, when submersion is more detrimental than in early spring.

At a certain time the Little River is, as its name says, only a small affair, but it keeps within its narrow bed only during the driest part of the year; in winter and all through spring into summer the width of its overflow is from two to six miles. The large area covered by this regular overflow is the territory most conducive to the growth of the cypress, tupelo (*Nyssa uniflora*), waterelm (*Planera aquatica*), *Acer rubrum drummondii*, *Polygonum densiflorum*, and *Zizania miliaria*, the southern wild rice. Among the shrubs we see the ornamental *Itea virginica*, growing on top of a water-soaked stump, and the interesting cork plant, *Leitneria floridana*, which often attains the size of a small tree.

The young growth is generally thin; so much more voluminous is the debris which covers the ground and which, together with the cypress-knees and stumps left by the lumberman, make progress either on foot or in dugout very difficult in places.

South of the Missouri State line the open river enlarges to such an extent that it is called Big Lake, a region much frequented by all kinds of water birds and a fruitful field for the market-hunter. The merchant at Hornersville told me that in the winter 1893-94 the number of ducks sent to market from the region of Big Lake amounted to 150,000, four-fifths of which were Mallards. One hunter held receipts for 8000 Mallards, killed and shipped by him alone.

It may be that the season was exceptionally good, in accordance with Nature's great powers of compensation. The same agency which destroyed the crops in summer caused the presence of unprecedented numbers of ducks in winter. Even Blue-winged Teals, which were not known to winter in this latitude, remained in small numbers.

All kinds of ducks occur at some time or the other, but the Mallard is the principal duck for winter shooting. Green-winged

Teals are only killed for the hunter's table. Gadwalls are plentiful but neglected, because not in demand on account of the fishy taste of their meat. Spoonbills and Ringnecks are not desirable. Pintails are taken in great numbers in the fall, but they pass rapidly through on their return in spring.

Trapping was the main occupation of the people formerly and is still followed to some extent, but duck shooting in fall and winter, and bullfrog-gigging in spring form now a considerable source of the income of the inhabitants of the region in which the revenues from agricultural pursuits are seriously curtailed by the floods.

The soil is sandy and the products are few. Cotton is the main staple. Corn is raised for home use only and peas for hay. Grasses and clover do not thrive and their almost total absence from the ground causes an emptiness which, to one not used to it, is somewhat painful.

An extra source of income, but one of short duration only, was found when the Egret-plume craze came into vogue, some seven years ago. The Egret, *Ardea egretta*, or White Crane as it is always called, used to be an abundant breeder in the peninsula, and several large 'crane-roosts' existed in the Little River and St. Francis region. One crane hunter told me that he cleared \$800 from the sale of his crane feathers, and there were many such fellows busy with the extermination of the 'White Crane,' which these men now consider complete, as far as southern Missouri and northern Arkansas are concerned. No plume-hunting of any consequence has been going on for the last four years, and it is therefore delightful to hear that at least one colony of Egrets has escaped the murderous gun and is being preserved on guarded ground. The owner of the ground is said to be satisfied with gathering those plumes which the birds cast off during the breeding season and which are found in salable condition on the ground below their roosts.

A Brown Creeper Feeds a Chickadee.

EDWARD TENNANT.

While afield March 31, a few miles south of Attleboro Falls, Mass., I had occasion to pass through some large Oak and Chestnut woods. It being a warm day and having walked some distance I sat down to take a few notes and rest, I had not been sitting there long when a ♀ Brown creeper and a ♀ Chickadee lit on a large Oak close by, the creeper ran rapidly up the tree working its slender bill into every little crevice, occasionally stopping and uttering a few calls, evidently upon having discovered an uncommonly large Maggot she would be immediately joined by the Chickadee and together they would enjoy the savory morsel. I shot the creeper and the Chickadee flew off a few yards but immediately returned apparently looking for the Creeper, she gave up searching for food and flitted about for some time chirping loudly. Eying me suspiciously suddenly she uttered a loud *tweetee* and flew off in silence, soon she returned however, seemingly more agitated than before. She continued to fly about close by and although I fired at another bird she refused to go away, so I brought her home with the Creeper.

Q. & O. XIII, Sept., 1888 p. 138

Certhia familiaris americana, not *Certhia f. fusca*! — Dr. Cones has recently sought (Auk, April, 1897, XIV, 216) to resurrect the name *Certhia fusca* Barton (Fragments Nat. Hist. Penn., 1799, 11) and to establish it as the proper designation for the common Brown Creeper of eastern North America. His proposition unfortunately found favor with the A.O.U. Committee, and in the Ninth Supplement to the Check-List (Auk, Jan., 1899, XVI, 126) Barton's name supersedes the long-current *americana*. But *Certhia fusca* Barton, 1799, is preoccupied by *Certhia fusca* Gmelin, 1788 (Syst. Nat. I, 472) and therefore untenable. The next available name is apparently *Certhia americana* Bonaparte (Geog. & Comp. List, 1838, 11), so that the American Brown Creeper must be called, as heretofore, *Certhia familiaris americana*. — HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, Washington, D. C. Auk, XVI, April, 1899, p. 188.

Thryothorus
edwicensis

1890.

Florida,

Mar20-Apr1

Suwanee River.

Common everywhere throughout the heavily-timbered bottom of the river, but nowhere very numerous, more than two or three pairs being seldom seen in a day. I heard here on several occasions and at several different places a song which was wholly new to me, and which, until I saw the bird in the act of producing it, I could not believe was really that of this species. It consisted of a single high note followed by a long, rolling, very rich and musical trill, all on the same key. This song we heard only in the early morning or in the evening twilight. Evidently it was not peculiar to any one bird, for at least four or five different individuals were heard to make it. The ^{other} notes of these Suwanee Wrens ~~frequent-~~ly were in every way similar to those which are given by the species in other localities and which I have always considered monotonous and interesting. The bird along this river presents no other peculiarities of habit or voice.

The Carolina Wren a Summer Resident of Ontario.— On September 5, 1905, while collecting in a thicket on the east shore about two miles from the end of Point Pelee, Essex County, Ont., I secured a young male Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*). This skin is now No. 315 in my collection, and is the second record for Canada. The first Canadian specimen was taken in February, 1891, at Forest, Ont., by Mr. Montague Smith, and is recorded by mistake as being taken at Mount Forest, Ont., in McIlwraith's 'Birds of Ontario,' p. 392. At the time I collected the specimen above recorded I saw another Carolina Wren. Both were singing and creeping about very rapidly among the underbrush.

On September 6, Mr. P. A. Taverner and I visited the thicket above referred to. Mr. Taverner took a young male which is now No. 299 in his collection, and I secured two fledglings, both males, which are now No. 300 in Mr. Taverner's collection and No. 316 in my collection. Besides those taken we saw another, either an adult or a bird in the first winter plumage.

The two birds first taken were evidently members of an earlier brood, and the two last members of a later brood. The presence of these fledglings constitutes the first breeding record for Canada.— N. B. KLUGH, Macdonald Institute, Guelph, Ont. Auk, XXIII, Jan., 1906, p. 1057.

Falmouth, Maine.

The Carolina Wren (*Thyothorus ludovicianus*) at Falmouth, Maine.— On October 3, 1908, a male Carolina Wren was taken at Underwood Springs, Falmouth, Maine, by Mr. Arthur H. Norton, and is preserved in the collection of the Portland Society of Natural History. It had been seen in the vicinity for some weeks previous to its capture, first attracting my attention on August 18, 1908, near the shore at Tawn landing, about an eighth of a mile from Underwood Springs. It was then associated with Robins, Chipping and Song Sparrows. It gave one form of its song, and its alarm note several times. It disappeared in a few moments, but returned to the same locality for two succeeding mornings, at about the same hour of the day.

It was not seen or heard again until about the middle of September, when its song was heard several times, but the bird was not seen. On September 22 it was seen in the same locality of its first appearance, and that day gave several variations of its song, and was very active and alert. From that time it was watched with great interest each day until the day it was taken.

During this period it was constantly in company with large numbers of Robins, Cedar-birds, Chipping, Song and White-throated Sparrows, Warblers, Vireos, Kinglets, Chickadees, Thrushes, Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Purple Finches, Juncos, and Downy Woodpeckers: it seemed never to leave their proximity, though keeping near the shore, in shrubs and tangles about the vacant cottages.

It evidently remained within the small range of Tawn landing and Underwood Springs, a range of about an eighth of a mile in length and of small width, as it could be found at any time in some part of this section, with the same band of migrants.— MRS. ERNEST BREWER, *Woodfords, Maine.*

Auk 28, Jan-1909, p. 82.

Portland, Maine.

Capture of the Carolina Wren at Portland, Maine.— It is my wish to place on record the taking of a Carolina Wren (*Thyothorus ludovicianus*) on November 3, 1911, since it is, I believe, but the second of its kind ever seen in this vicinity. The bird flew into my sunroom where I secured it by casting a light cloth over it, and placed it in a canary cage swathed about with mosquito netting to prevent its fighting the bars. The bird was active, seemed in good condition, and, with the coming of night, slept serenely; but it died unexpectedly in the morning when I was out of the room. It had taken a little mockingbird food and a little soaked cracker, but showed no liking for either. Mr. Arthur H. Norton, who prepared the bird's skin for the Natural History Museum, states that it was an old female and died apparently from natural causes.

I find that my neighbor had watched this bird in her garden the day before its fatal visit to my house. Bowdoin Street is on the southwestern edge of Portland where grassy fields, wet thicket, the steep wooded slope of the Western Promenade, old gardens, and a sunny old burying ground make admirably diversified territory for birds, bringing us into the midst of spring and fall migrations.

The other Carolina Wren, a male, was discovered some time in August, 1908, at Falmouth, Maine, by Mrs. Ernest Brewer, who observed it throughout the remainder of the summer, until October 3 when Mr. Norton shot it for the Portland Society of Natural History, at whose museum the skins of both these wrens are now kept.

Records of Mrs. Brewer's Carolina Wren are to be found in 'The Auk,' XXVI, p. 82; and in an article by her in the Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society, XI, pp. 4-10.— CAROLINE M. STEVENS, *Portland, Me.*

Auk 29, Jan-1912, p. 106-07

THE GREAT CAROLINA WREN (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) IN NEW HAMPSHIRE. — While collecting in a thick piece of woods at Rye Beach, N. H., my attention was attracted by a loud clear note which I failed to recognize. After following the sound for some time the bird, enticed by the imitation of its note, showed itself for a moment and was secured. It proved to be the Great Carolina Wren. While picking it up another was heard scolding in the neighboring thicket, but upon my nearer approach it vanished in the bushes, scarcely allowing me a momentary glimpse. This happened August 7, and is, I believe, the most northern appearance of this bird on record. — HENRY M. SPELMAN, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Jan., 1881, p. 54.

THE GREAT CAROLINA WREN IN MASSACHUSETTS.—The Great Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) has not previously been recorded as a visitor to Massachusetts, but there are at present two apparently passing the summer in a small wooded swamp near Boston. It is believed that they have arrived since the 4th of July, soon after which time my attention was attracted by their loud notes, which I immediately recognized, through their general likeness to the notes of other Wrens, and the descriptions of Wilson and Audubon. It is further believed that they are now building, or have recently built, their nest, since they remain persistently in one neighborhood, the female being rarely seen, though the male often visits the shrubbery about the house.—H. D. MINOT.

Bull. N.O.C. I, Sept, 1876, p. 76.

THE CAROLINA WREN IN MASSACHUSETTS.—My friend, Mr. Geo. O. Welch, secured a fine specimen of the *Thryothorus ludovicianus* in Lynn, on the 6th of July. The imprudent stranger ventured within an easy range of his work-room window, in the very heart of the city, and now remains as tangible evidence of its right to a place on the list of the birds of this State as well as New England.—T. M. BREWER, Boston, Mass.

Bull. N.O.C. 3, Oct., 1878, p. 193.

Thryothorus ludovicianus in Massachusetts.—An adult specimen of *Thryothorus ludovicianus* was killed on the 4th of November last, by Mr. Arthur Smith, in Brookline, Mass. The specimen is now in my cabinet.—C. B. CORY, Boston, Mass. Auk, I, Jan., 1884, p. 91.

West Roxbury, Mass. Dec. 30th 1898. Mr. F. B. MacKinnon has shown me the skin of a Carolina Wren which he shot on about Dec. 1st & 2nd. There were two birds together in a stem overtopped by barberry bushes. This occurrence was announced on our winter club by Mr. Brewster but Mr. MacKinnon says that no published record has as yet been made. (Mr. MacKinnon afterwards informed me by letter that the Wrens were seen & his specimen shot "just over the Roxbury line in Dorchester".)

The Carolina Wren in Eastern Massachusetts.—On May 4, 1902, I found a Great Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) in an orchard in Belmont, Mass. The bird was singing freely. The people in the house near by said that they had heard him about the place for three or four days. Since May 4 I have neither seen nor heard the bird. According to Messrs. Howe and Allen, 'Birds of Massachusetts,' p. 92, this is the seventh record of this bird for the State, and the only record for the spring.—RALPH HOFFMANN, Belmont, Mass. Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p. 252.

Another Record of *Thryothorus ludovicianus* in Massachusetts.—As I was returning home about seven o'clock on the morning of September 6, 1902, I stopped near the edge of a damp thicket of bushes and small trees, consisting of willows, red maples and gray birches, with tangles of briars and wild grapes. This tract, several acres in extent, is in the northern part of Fall River, Mass. After a few moments my attention was attracted by a new bird song. This came from a black alder bush, which was so thick I could not identify the singer. After singing there for a few moments, the bird hopped on to an exposed twig, and I at once secured it,—a male Carolina Wren. Dr. Dwight, after examining the bird, has kindly written me that it is a young bird, in juvenal plumage. Among other variations of the song, I noted some which I presume are those Mr. Chapman refers to as the 'tea-kettle' notes.—OWEN DUFFEE, Fall River, Mass. Auk, XX, Jan., 1903, p. 69.

General notes.

Thryothorus ludovicianus in Massachusetts.—On September 27, 1891, I shot in my garden in Cambridge, Mass., a Carolina Wren. The bird was an adult male and was in fine condition. He had been in the neighborhood for nearly a week and possibly longer, and was frequently to be heard calling or singing. The spot seemed to be to his taste, for my own and the adjoining gardens afford an abundance of shade trees and shrubbery, while, separated only by a high board fence, is an extensive pile of firewood and odds and ends of lumber the attractions of which he seems to have been the first to discover.

As far as I am aware this species has been captured in New England, beyond the limits of the Carolinian fauna, but three times before: at Brookline (Nov. 4, 1883) and Lynn, Mass. (July 6, 1878), and at Rye Beach, N. H. (Aug. 7, 1880). In the present instance the habits of the species, as well as the absence of violent storms for some time previous, preclude all idea of the bird's having been swept away from his home and dropped here by some cyclonic gale. In all probability it was simply a case of that restless spirit of wandering that takes possession of most 'non-migratory' species in the autumn, and which is very likely the surviving remnant of a former habit of migration in such species.—C. F. BATCHELDER, Cambridge, Mass. Auk, 9, Jan. 1892, p. 73-74.

Nesting of the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) in Southern Massachusetts.—My young friend Mr. Henry S. Forbes has kindly given me permission to publish the following interesting extracts from two letters which he has lately sent me.

In his first letter, dated at Naushon on July 7, 1901, he says: "This afternoon I had a most exciting bird experience. As I was riding through the Naushon woods I heard a peculiar whistle wholly new to me. I dismounted, tied my horse and followed up the sound. The author I found was a bird of Wren-like appearance and of about the size of a Song Sparrow but shorter and stouter. It had a nervous habit of squatting and jerking its body whenever it gave utterance to its whistled notes. Presently its mate came with food in her bill and I went off to let both birds settle down. As I was watching the male from a distance he suddenly began a most delicious song. A few minutes later I found the nest which contained three or four young nearly ready to fly. It was placed on the ground in a hole among some dry leaves, under the dead branches of a fallen tree, and was partly roofed over with leaves. I did not examine the interior of the nest closely as I did not wish to disturb the young. I thought at the time the birds must be Carolina Wrens and on coming home found that Mr. Chapman's description corresponded in almost every respect with what I had seen and heard. His representation of the song as *whee-udel, whee-udel* seems to me very good indeed."

Under date of August 12, 1901, Mr. Forbes writes again as follows: "Yesterday to my surprise a pair of Carolina Wrens appeared in the garden behind our house and stayed there all day. The male (I suppose sang several times and uttered a variety of queer notes, but the song did not seem to have quite the same ring as when I heard it in the deep woods. I wonder if this is the same pair and if so where the young are. When I revisited the nest a week after I found it, the whole family had left the vicinity. I saw more clearly on this pair, the white or yellowish line above the eye which the young in the nest had."

Mr. Minot's record (Bull. N. O. C., Vol. I, No. 3, Sept., 1876, p. 76) of a pair of Carolina Wrens which he saw in Roxbury about July 4, 1876, and that by Dr. Brewer (*Ibid.*, Vol. III, No. 4, Oct., 1878, p. 193), of a bird taken in Lynn on July 6, 1878, have of course already led us to suspect that the species occasionally breeds in eastern Massachusetts, but Mr. Forbes is, I believe, the first observer who has been fortunate enough to definitely establish the fact. There would seem to be no reason why the birds should not continue to resort to Naushon, for the grand old forest which covers so large a part of that island is admirably suited to their requirements.

—WILLIAM BREWSTER, Cambridge, Mass.

Auk, XVIII, Oct., 1901, pp. 297, 298.

A Carolina Wren in Middlesex Fells, Massachusetts.—On November 20, 1906, the call-notes of a wren were heard within the border of this State Reservation on the Wyoming side, and upon investigation the bird was found to be a Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*). It was moving in and about piles of cord wood laid up in the work of cutting out and sawing the large pines and hemlocks which the gypsy moths have killed. I stood with my back to one pile while the activity of the wren about another pile was observed and enjoyed with keen interest. Presently it came over into the pile beside which I stood and worked in among the sticks of wood and out onto the top within four or five feet of me, affording views at very near range. The coloration was strong in its reddish brown above, shading brighter from the crown to the rump, and in its decided ochraceous-buff tint below; while when the head was thrown back the throat showed almost clear white. Conspicuous over the eye was the white line and clearly discernible were the white outer edges and spottings of the wings. From the wood piles the wren moved up among the sharp rocks of the hillside, going in and out of the holes between the rocks. The following day it was again visited and found in the family woodpile of the only house standing near and within the reservation. Here it passed back and forth, in and out, from woodpile to refuse heap of old blinds and fencing and through a cart-shed near by. Upon subsequent visits of myself and friends up to November 29 the wren appeared more shy and less disposed to afford good views of itself, remaining hidden for an hour, it might be, without even uttering a call-note and then suddenly appearing.

The last published records of Carolina Wrens in this vicinity are those in Mr. William Brewster's valuable work on the 'Birds of the Cambridge Region,' 1906, in which one is given as seen by Mr. Ralph Hoffmann on May 4, 1902, in Belmont (*Auk*, Vol. XIX, p. 292), and one again March 7, 1903, about a mile distant from the previous locality, also in Belmont, and continuing to be seen by local observers to the end of May, regarded as perhaps the same bird as seen in 1902. Early in June, 1903, Mr. William P. Hadley killed a Carolina Wren on Arlington Heights, whither it is thought this same bird may have strayed. Messrs. Howe and Allen in their 'Birds of Massachusetts' give six other records within the State between the years 1876 and 1899 inclusive. To these are to be added two later records in 'The Auk,' namely, one (Vol. XVIII, p. 397), giving the first definite record of the species nesting in the State, namely, on Naushon Island, July, 1901, and the other (Vol. XX, p. 69) giving Mr. Owen Durfee's account of taking a young bird in juvenal plumage at Fall River, Sept. 6, 1902.

The Middlesex Fells bird would seem, therefore, to be the tenth which has been recorded within the State in a period of thirty years.—HORACE W. WRIGHT, *Boston, Mass.*
Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 105-106.

Two Rare Birds for Massachusetts.—I should like to record the recent occurrence in Lexington, Mass., of two birds, rare in eastern Massachusetts. Shortly before seven in the morning, April 26, 1913, a Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus ludovicianus*) passed rapidly northward through my yard, singing loudly. Soon afterward, Mr. Walter Faxon, from his house half a mile to the north, heard the song. An hour later, we followed the wren's northward course for nearly a mile until we overtook him, singing from a tangle of brush. From here he turned squarely to the west and, still in the brush, continued to an alder swamp where he dropped to the ground to feed and stopped singing. We found no further trace of the bird either late in the afternoon of the 26th or the next morning.

The second rarity, a Blue-winged Warbler (*Vermivora pinus*), visited my garden at 5 o'clock in the morning of May 6, 1913. He was in brilliant plumage, showing no trace of mixed blood. He sang from the top of a flowering plum tree the typical *pinus* song,—two drawing, buzzing notes. This bird arrived, doubtless, with the heavy migration wave of the previous night which brought the orioles and most of the resident warblers, including the Blue-winged Warbler's relative, *V. chrysoptera*.

Mr. Faxon and I were especially interested in the presence of this warbler. In 'The Auk' for October, 1907 (p. 444), Mr. Faxon recorded a male Brewster's Warbler which had spent the preceding summer in Lexington, and in the Memoirs of Museum of Comp. Zool., 1910 (XL, pp. 57-78), he gave a detailed account of two female Brewster's Warblers which, mated with *V. chrysoptera*, bred during the summer of 1910, in the same locality where the 1907 bird was found. Brewster's Warblers have returned to this locality each year since 1910.

In plumage the offspring of all these birds have followed the laws of Mendelian heredity and the inference is that *V. pinus* has bred on some former occasion in the vicinity and that these Brewster's Warblers are a relic of cross breeding. However, with the exception of "A nesting of the Blue-winged Warbler in Massachusetts," by Horace W. Wright (Auk, XXVI, No. 4, October, 1909) in Sudbury, twenty miles to the south, there was, until now, no record of the occurrence of *V. pinus* for this immediate region. The appearance this spring of a pure Blue-winged Warbler within half a mile of the Brewster's breeding ground is a bit of corroborative evidence that from time to time pure blood may be introduced into eastern Massachusetts.

Mr. Faxon and I believe that the present bird cannot have been a descendant of a local *V. leucobronchialis*, for the reason that, without exception, the Brewster's Warblers in Lexington sing the *V. chrysoptera* song.—WINSOR M. TYLER, Lexington, Mass.

~~Aug~~ 30, July, 1911. D. 435, 436.

The Carolina Wren in the Maine Wilderness.—Late in June I visited the Fish and Game Preserve of the Megantic Club which is located in northwestern Maine, and extends from Beaver Pond, about twenty-five miles north of the Rangeley Lake, to Lake Megantic in Quebec. A large part of this is primeval forest, a clearing having been made only for the accommodation of camps, and little or no lumbering has ever been done on the preserve.

I reached Beaver Pond about noon of June 21st, and almost the first bird song I heard was that of the Carolina Wren. I did not succeed in seeing the bird, but one who is familiar with the song in the South, and has heard it in New Jersey, and two or three times on Long Island, cannot mistake it, even in the Maine woods.—JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, Floral Park, N. Y.

Auk xxxiii, Oct., 1916, p. 438,

CAPTURE OF THE CAROLINA WREN AND OTHER PALE BIRDS IN RHODE ISLAND.—A friend of mine, Mr. George M. Gray, recently brought me a male Great Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), which he shot at Bristol, R. I., August 14, 1880. On hearing its notes he at first thought it was some one whistling, but on answering it the bird soon came within shot, and he killed it.

Frederic T. Jencks, Providence, R. I.

Bull. N. O. C., 5, Oct., 1880, p. 237.

The Carolina Wren Breeding in Rhode Island.—On May 11, 1899, I found in Middletown, R. I., a male Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) and three young ones just able to fly. As they were together when I found them they no doubt belonged to the same family and, from the age of the young, could not have been far from their nest. As the bird is rare here, the above may be of interest to the readers of 'The Auk.'—EDWARD STURTEVANT, Newport, R. I.

Auk, XVI, July, 1899, p. 284.

Auk, XVI, Jan., 1899, p. 83.

The Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) at Peace Dale, R. I.—I have been very much puzzled a good many times during the past summer by hearing, in the near neighborhood of my house here, the notes of the Cardinal Bird given with great distinctness and for several minutes together. Every time when I have tried to find the author of the notes he has managed to escape observation. On the 21st of October, long after I had supposed the mysterious visitor had gone south, I heard the note very plainly and devoted half an hour to looking for the bird. I was so fortunate on this occasion as to get a good glimpse of the singer, and it proved to my astonishment to be a fine male of the Carolina Wren. As soon as I saw him he disappeared in company with his mate, both of them uttering the characteristic alarm note which the writers tell us of. I did not shoot the bird but feel entirely sure of the identification, as I distinctly saw the line above the eye, which is easily seen at tolerably close quarters. Immediately after the 21st we went through a long, cold rain storm and I supposed then I should not hear the Wren again. But on the 28th of October I did hear him singing with great spirit and for some minutes together. This is now the 28th of November and we have passed through a blizzard which began Saturday afternoon, the 26th, and has been without any doubt as severe a blizzard as we have ever experienced in this part of New England. Snow has fallen here to a depth rather difficult to estimate, but on the level it cannot be less than eight inches; of course, being accompanied by a very high wind it drifted enormously.—I observed several exhausted birds, or at least if not exhausted more or less disabled by the storm. While investigating the damage done in my garden I again heard my friend the Carolina Wren. This being the third time that he has intensely surprised me, I lose no time to report it. Is it common for Carolina Wrens to linger beyond the summer time as far north as this? I cannot find any record of it and imagine that I have a very odd specimen of the bird here.—R. G. HAZARD, Peace Dale, R. I.

The Great Carolina Wren in Southern Rhode Island.—As has been previously noted in 'The Auk' by the present writer, this bird has been within recent years known to summer in southern Rhode Island. Last year and year before (1905-1906) there was no indication of his presence in the neighborhood of Peace Dale in South Kingstown in the Narragansett country of Rhode Island. This year, however, at least one male has been heard singing upon the 28th and 29th of June, and the 1st and 2d of July in precisely the same neighborhood where he was heard and seen, as previously recorded. The song this year was a rather faint-hearted imitation of the Cardinal's fine call. By that I mean, that it was not uttered with the boldness observed in previous years. This may have been due to the heat or some other cause, but there is no question it is the voice of the Great Carolina Wren upon the dates given this year.

I send this note to 'The Auk,' hoping that some other observer may feel prompted to record his observation, as it is certainly a matter of interest to Rhode Islanders to find this delightful bird becoming a fairly regular summer visitor. R. G. HAZARD, Peace Dale, R. I., July 4, 1907.

Auk, XVI, July, 1907, p. 444.

CAPTURE OF THE CAROLINA WREN AND OTHER BIRDS IN RHODE ISLAND.—A friend of mine, Mr. George M. Gray, recently brought me a male Great Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), which he shot at Bristol, R. I., August 14, 1880. On hearing its notes he at first thought it was some one whistling, but on answering it the bird soon came within shot, and he killed it.

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Auk, XVI, July, 1900, p. 284.

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I send this note to 'The Auk' hoping that some other observer may feel prompted to record his observation, as it is certainly a matter of interest to Rhode Islanders to find this delightful bird becoming a fairly regular summer visitor.—*H. G. Flaxey, Peace Dale, R. I., July 4, 1907.*

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Rhode Island.

Breeding of the Carolina Wren in Rhode Island.—I have before now communicated to you the fact that the Great Carolina Wren appears to have occasionally bred in southern Rhode Island. This year I am quite sure again that the wren is breeding here, and for the first time that more than one pair have bred in this neighborhood. The post-nuptial song has lately been very noticeable in the morning. On July 13 I distinctly heard two males singing different songs at the same time, or in answer to one another, both being in my garden. They appear to prefer to begin singing about 6 A. M., and it is often continued as late as nine or ten o'clock. This morning, the 29th July, two males have been singing enchantingly, one of them giving the full, ringing note of the Cardinal Bird, and the other a very different, but resonant song, more individual to the wren itself.

Once heard, the quality of the tone is easy to recognize, and I shall hope to hear of other records in this vicinity, and perhaps further north.

I feel that we are to be congratulated upon the regular visits of this very attractive songster, as it is now several years that I have heard them at this season.—R. G. HAZARD, *Peace Dale, R. I.*

Ank 25, Oct. 1908, p. 480

Rhode Island.

Carolina Wren in Rhode Island.—During the past summer (1908) there have been at least two, and possibly more, Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) resident at Kingston, R. I. They were not noted until late in July, but were then occasionally seen and constantly heard about until September. There is some reason to believe they bred there this year, but unfortunately the evidence is not certain enough to establish a record. A lady and gentleman noticed a pair of small birds which had a nest in a hole in an apple tree rather late in the season. They did not think they were Chickadees, and no House Wrens were seen in the village this summer. The matter did not come to the writer's knowledge until after the young had flown. Residents of Kingston say that the Carolina Wren has been seen in the village before, but not for several years. The writer is certain from personal observation that it could not have been there in 1907.—LEON J. COLE, *New Haven, Conn.*

Ank 26, Jan. 1909, p. 81-82.

THE GREAT CAROLINA WREN (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) IN CONNECTICUT.—Dr. Brewer recorded in the last issue of the Bulletin (Vol. III, p. 193) the first known capture of this Wren in Massachusetts and New England. I now give a second instance, which is also its first Connecticut record. A line from Mr. J. H. Clark informs me that he obtained a fine specimen at Saybrook, November 25, 1878.—H. A. PURDIE, Boston, Mass.

Bull. N.O.C., 4, Jan., 1879, p. 61.

CAPTURE OF THE GREAT CAROLINA WREN (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) IN CONNECTICUT, IN MARCH.—A male of this species was shot here March 2, 1883, by Mr. Chas. H. Neff, and is now in his cabinet. It was in good condition—was in song and killed among the rocks on a wooded hillside.

So far as I can learn, the only previously recorded capture of this Wren in Connecticut is the one taken by J. N. Clark at Saybrook, Nov. 25, 1878 (see this Bulletin, Vol. IV, p. 61).—Jno. H. SAGE, Portland, Conn.

Bull. N.O.C., 8, April, 1888, p. 120

The Carolina Wren in Connecticut.—Mr. Willard E. Treat writes me that he took a male *Thryothorus ludovicianus* at East Hartford, Conn., March 18, 1886. It was in good condition, and had been seen since February 15 among some thick brush and tall weeds. This is, I believe, the third capture of this bird in Connecticut.—Jno. H. SAGE, Portland, Conn.

Auk, 3, Oct., 1886, p. 489

Notes from Connecticut.—Among my notes for 1892 the following may be of interest, as relating to the vicinity of Bridgeport.

A fine male Carolina Wren in full song was shot April 8. I was attracted from a distance by the power and richness of its vocalization, and found it dodging in and about an immense pile of cordwood in a recent clearing.

E. H. Eames, Bridgeport, Conn.

Auk, 10, Jan., 1893, p. 69.

Auk, XV, April, 1898, p. 192.

Carolina Wren at Lyme, Conn., in Winter.—On the morning of Dec. 17, 1897, I was surprised to see and hear a Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) sing his pleasing notes. As this is the first time I have seen the bird in Connecticut, this record may be of interest to readers of 'The Auk.'—ARTHUR W. BROCKWAY, Lyme, Conn.

Auk, XVII, Jan., 1899, p. 84.

The Carolina Wren in Connecticut.—While collecting in a grove about five miles from Bridgeport, April 20, 1895, Dr. E. H. Eames and the writer found two Carolina Wrens (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) occupied in running about a stone wall. On June 13, we found both old birds and shot two young ones. The young, which had probably been out of the nest a week, had only a faint chirp and were not as active as the adults.—H. H. TAYLOR, Bridgeport, Conn.

Auk, XV, July, 1898, p. 274.

Carolina Wren at Lyme, Conn., in December.—On the morning of December 17, 1897, I was surprised to see and hear a Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) at this place. As it is the first one I have ever seen in New England, it may be of interest to record the occurrence.—ARTHUR W. BROCKWAY, Lyme, Conn.

A Carolina Wren in New London County, Connecticut.—While driving along a well traveled road on the afternoon of Dec. 29, 1909, I had the pleasure of meeting a Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) and visited with him several minutes as he was not in the least shy. The thermometer registered zero that morning, with a foot of snow on the ground.—ARTHUR W. BROCKWAY, Hadlyme, Conn.

Auk, 27, Apr., 1910, p. 243

Nesting of the Great Carolina Wren in Connecticut.—"Come up here to-morrow morning and I will show you a bird's nest such as you never saw before in the State of Connecticut"—such was the tenor of the message which the mail brought me from Chester, Conn., last 15th of July, under the hand of Mr. C. H. Watrous, that stirred my oölogical instincts. I have a list of one hundred species whose nidification has fallen under my observation in Connecticut, and here was an offer to introduce to me No. 101. Of course I went, a passenger of the first morning train on the Valley Road, which left me on the station platform of that enterprising town which lies on the west shore of the Connecticut River, about ten miles from its mouth. It was not in the wild woods, as I expected, but out in the back yard, not fifteen rods from the house, that I was escorted to an open shed, some dozen feet square, with roof of rough slabs laid double and supported by four corner posts, and with three open sides and one, the east, a rock. It was occupied by a small portable forge and anvil and the usual tools of a smithy, evidently long out of use. The end of one of the slabs of the roof, by the forces of decay, had fallen away from its support several inches, and on the shelf so formed between it and the slab above was the nest I had come to see; chiefly composed of decayed leaves, weed stems, fine rootlets, and rubbish, outwardly, and nearly filling the space, lined with stems of maple seed, horse-hair, and pieces of snake-skin. There was no tenant and neither welcome nor remonstrance greeted our intrusion, and the only bird note the cheery song of a Red-eyed Vireo in the tree that spread its shading arms over our heads. Finding seats we waited quietly and patiently the greeting and salutation anticipated as unwelcome guests intruding upon the family affairs of a stranger. Ten minutes of quiet and a little bird flitted from the thicket near, to a branch some fifteen feet away; for five minutes she remained quiet, motionless as a statue, and watched the invaders of her domain; she then descended to the water pool near, took a drink and began chasing the insects around the pool a few moments; then by short flights and leaps she drew near to her visitors till she reached a perch on a small stone not three feet away from us and watched us and our every motion, first with one eye and then with the other, till some slight motion on our part sent her scurrying into the thicket. It was a fine typical specimen of the Great Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), and her nest contained five eggs typical of the species, as found in the usual Carolina haunts. Mr. Watrous tells me that he has observed the birds in that vicinity for several years; that he saw the nest and young reared near the same place in a brush heap last year, and he has heard their inimitable song ringing out every month and every week of the year! The birds were perfectly quiet throughout our interview, no song of transport and no note of displeasure once met our ears. This is the first proof I have ever received that this bird was a permanent resident of Connecticut, and I believe this to be the first record of its nidification in the State.—JOHN N. CLARK, Saybrook, Conn.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, pp. 90, 91.

New Haven, Conn.

The Carolina Wren at New Haven, Conn.—The Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) was reported as a rare resident at New Haven from about 1901 to 1904, but so far as I am able to ascertain none have been seen here since the severe winter of 1905-06 until December, 1908. On the 25th of December, Mr. A. W. Honywill, Jr., saw one of these birds in Edgewood Park. Four days later, on the 29th, I was attracted by the loud song of a Carolina Wren and succeeded in positively identifying two individuals. These birds were in the same locality as the one seen on the 25th. On January 2, 1909, I took a Carolina Wren only a few hundred yards from the above mentioned Park, thus absolutely proving the presence of the birds in this locality.—CLIFFORD H. PANGBURN, New Haven, Conn.

Auk 26, Apr-1909, p. 193.

*Evidence of Carolinian Fauna in Hudson Valley,
from observations made at Riverdale, N. Y.*

E. P. Bicknell.

Thryothorus ludovicianus. CAROLINA WREN. A specimen was taken in the late fall several years ago by Mr. W. E. Babcock, on a partially wooded slope extending toward the river shore. Two instances of its occurrence on Manhattan Island are recorded by Mr. Lawrence,† and De Kay (p. 55) speaks of having had specimens from Westchester and Rockland Counties, taken as late as the middle of December.

† A Catalogue of the Birds observed in the Vicinity of New York. By Geo. N. Lawrence. 1866, p. 283.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, July, 1878, p. 129.

We saw and heard several Great
Carolina Wrens on the Island ^{Switzerland Island.}
Miss B. Buffing. Shelter Island, N. Y. May 28.
O. & C. VIII, Dec. 1883, p. 97.

Long Island Bird Notes. Wm. Dutcher

22. **Thryothorus ludovicianus.** CAROLINA WREN.—Giraud says of this bird: "Occasionally during the summer months, this large and musical Wren is seen on Long Island."* The later published records for the country lying east and north of Long Island are for the summer months, with the notable exceptions of the record made by Mr. H. A. Purdie†, of Boston, Mass., of one taken at Saybrook, Conn., November 25, 1878, and by Mr. John H. Sage,* of one taken at Portland, Conn., March 2, 1883. The November specimen was undoubtedly a bird that had spent the summer in the locality where it was secured, and the March specimen may possibly have braved the rigors of a New England winter. It undoubtedly did, as I am now able to present a record of one taken in January, thus confirming that supposition, and showing that although they, as a family, prefer the more genial climate of the Southern States, yet an individual of unusual hardness is sometimes seen. Mr. John D. Hicks, of Old Westbury, L. I., was attracted, January 30, 1885, by a loud call-note, which resembled, "as near as I can produce it, *kach*," and proceeded from a tangled and swampy thicket near his lumber yard at Roslyn, L. I. Proceeding to the place whence the sound issued, he saw the bird on a low willow tree, giving utterance to its peculiar note and accompanying each one with a Wren-like motion. It gave no song whatever, was sprightly, and in good condition, and was busily occupied in looking for food. Not having a gun with him at the time he was unable to secure it, but on the following day (January 31) he found it in a swamp not more than five hundred feet from where it was seen the day before. On both occasions it was in company with a mixed flock of Tree and White-throated Sparrows. The swamp in which it was found is full of springs that very rarely freeze.

* Birds of Long Island, p. 75.

† Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. IV, p. 61.

* Bull. Nutt. Orn. Club, Vol. VIII, p. 120.

General Notes

Auk, X, Jan. 1893, pp. 87-81

The Carolina Wren in the Lower Hudson Valley.—The occurrence of the Carolina Wren on the eastern slope of the Palisades furnishes a marked illustration of the influence exerted by river valleys in extending the range of species. While as abundant during the summer in this locality as in any part of its range, it is as yet a comparatively rare bird on the eastern shore of the river, and on the western shore is seldom found far from the cliffs of the Palisades. I have observed it at Fort Lee, New Jersey, and just below Piermont, New York, but for the most part my observations have been confined to the 'Under Cliff' road at Englewood. Here on July 3 a nest containing young was found. It was placed in a small pocket-like opening in the face of a perpendicular cliff fifteen feet from the crest of the Palisades and an equal distance from a ledge below. On the same day within a distance of a mile no less than *ten* Carolina Wrens were seen, and on returning to the place a week later six birds were seen. But, as before remarked, although so abundant here, the birds are comparatively rare in the adjoining country. My friend Mr. Evan Evans, who lives less than a mile west of the spot where the nest was found, tells me that he rarely sees this species except in the immediate vicinity of the cliffs. At West Englewood, distant three and a half miles, I have found one or two individuals each spring and fall, and it has seemed to me that the species was slowly becoming more regular. During 1892 I noted single individuals at West Englewood on May 20 and October 23, and also at Larchmont on Long Island Sound on July 18 and in Central Park, New York City, on August 29. Dr. Mearns does not include it in his 'Birds of the Hudson Highlands,' and Dr. Fisher tells me he has not met with it at Sing Sing. Mr. J. Rowley, Jr., informs me that at Hastings-on-the-Hudson a few miles north of Yonkers he sees one or two of these birds each year. But the most interesting evidence concerning the Carolina Wren in the Hudson Valley is furnished by Mr. Bicknell whose notes were made at Riverdale on the eastern shore of the river, exactly opposite Englewood. Mr. Bicknell writes: "About Riverdale the Carolina Wren is certainly more common than it used to be. Up to 1879, when I found it breeding at Spuyten Duyvil, I regarded it as an accidental visitor. My brothers were close observers of birds before me, and they had never seen it, although one had been shot at Riverdale in the late autumn of 1873. Of late years I have come to look upon it as a regularly irregular visitor, and every year I expect to meet with it at least two or three times. . . . It has seemed to me the eastern shore of the Hudson gets the overflow from the Wren population of the slopes of the Palisades, which has undoubtedly been increasing. For years past on occasional visits to the Palisades from spring until late in autumn I have never failed to hear the Carolina Wren, and have frequently heard two singing at the same time. On one occasion I heard two singing and saw still another, all at the same moment." My own more recent experience with this bird on the Palisades, as herein recorded, confirms Mr. Bicknell's remarks, and it would appear that, having become permanently established there, it is gradually spreading through the surrounding country.—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

THE GREAT CAROLINA WREN BREEDING ON LONG ISLAND, N. Y.—In a letter recently received from Mr. Robert Lawrence, he informs me that on May 8, 1879, he was fortunate enough to take a female Great Carolina Wren at Flushing, Long Island, and on the following day saw the male and a brood of four young birds just able to fly. Although record of two captures of this Wren has been given for New York Island by Mr. George N. Lawrence, I think this is the first record of its breeding in that locality.—RUTHVEN DEANE, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Bull N.O.C. 4, July, 1879, p. 184.

THE CAROLINA WREN (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) BREEDING IN NEW YORK.—Through the kindness of Mr. D. H. Kellogg, I am enabled to record for the first time the breeding of *Thryothorus ludovicianus* in New York State, who, on the evening of May 2 last, showed me the nest of the species at his residence at Spuyten-Duyvil. The nest was built on a shelf in the closed room of an out-house, which was entered by the bird through a latticed window. Desiring to establish its identity beyond question, several attempts were made to capture the parent upon her nest, but unsuccessfully, until the sixth or seventh trial, she having persistently returned immediately after our departure on every unsuccessful attempt. The nest, containing five eggs, was merely a miscellaneous aggregation of rubbish, extending for fully sixteen inches along a small shelf already occupied by several articles, now partially imbedded in the materials of its structure. The whole was overhung by a mass of dried bean-vines pendent from the wall above, which partially concealed the mossy fringed side-entrance to the feather-lined cavity within. The eggs were five in number, and on the point of hatching.

Mr. Robert Lawrence has informed me of the interesting fact of this species having bred about the same early date at Flushing, L. I. [see below]. So far as I am aware, this is the first record of its breeding on Long Island, though I learn from Mr. Akhurst of Brooklyn, that in 1843 a pair reared a brood of five young at Valley Grove. At Riverdale, the present season, I observed this species in full song on April 20 and May 6; and Mr. Kellogg informs me that the male bird of the breeding pair remained about his place in full song for at least two days after its nest had been taken.—EUGENE P. BICKNELL, *Riverdale, New York City.*

Bull. N.O.C. 4, July, 1870, p. 183-184.

Bird Notes from Long Island, N. Y.
William Dutcher.

26. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. CAROLINA WREN.—Since my previous record† another specimen has been brought to my notice by one of my correspondents, Mr. Henry Hicks, of Westbury Station, Queens Co., who now has it in his collection. He secured it the latter part of March, 1886. It was first seen March 22, about an open hovel, and remained about the place until the 25th, when it was shot. *Auk*, V, April, 1888, p. 188

Auk XIV, Apr., 1897, p. 234.
The Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) at Inwood-on-Hudson, New York City.—Visiting my summer home at Inwood-on-Hudson, March 28, 1896, I heard a loud and beautiful song coming from the top of a dead elm tree. The bird sang almost continually until my efforts to get a good view of him frightened him away. After sitting fifteen minutes on a rock near where the bird had appeared to alight, and waiting for the song, he broke out again, and I discovered him perching on a low tree not twenty-five feet distant.

It was a new species to me, but it seemed to me it must be the Carolina Wren, and on studying up the bird carefully, in all my books at home, I felt quite sure the identification was correct. I heard him again on April 1 and 22. May 14 we went to Inwood for the summer, but only heard the Wren sing four times, until May 22. Then I had a fine view of one near some dilapidated buildings around an unoccupied house. Four days later loud and continued singing attracted me to a heap of dry brush near these buildings, and there I found the parents and five little Carolina Wrens. The young were able to fly nicely, and they gave a musical call, much like that of the old birds, and scolded beautifully.

After that, they were seen frequently, and I heard the beautiful song at all hours of the day, up to Nov. 12, when we moved to town. Going to Inwood on Jan. 18, 1897, I heard the full song again, so it would appear that they wintered there.

The old birds were quite tame, lighting and singing in shrubbery close to the house, and twice one was seen on the piazza, examining plants in pots, and even drinking from the saucer of a flower-pot.—F. H. FOOTE, *New York City.*

Rare Birds near Buffalo, New York.

Thryothorus ludovicianus. CAROLINA WREN.—On the 5th of November, 1894, I was passing through a patch of fallen timber in the woods near Stony Point and stopped to watch some Chickadees. When I started on I was startled by a loud chattering such as I had never heard before. It was fully ten minutes before I caught sight of the author of it, and had the pleasure of adding a Carolina Wren to my collection. I have not seen any record of its capture in Western New York previous to this. It was taken just after a severe gale from the southwest.—JAMES SAVAGE, Buffalo, N. Y.

Breeding of the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*) on Long Island, N. Y.—On the 20th of March, 1896, I heard a Carolina Wren in a swamp near my home in Roslyn, Queen's Co., N. Y. Knowing it to be rare on Long Island I decided to watch it as closely as possible, hoping it might have a mate.

The village of Roslyn is situated at the head of Hempstead Harbor, and is shut in by hills on three sides. There are three ponds in the village, a few hundred feet apart, with swamp land between, and being in a row, one above the other, they divide the village in two parts. Between the highest pond and the second one is a swamp three or four acres in

area, where I first heard the Wren, and where he stayed most of the time for several weeks. Every day I could hear his *pickin' cherries, pickin' cherries, pickin' cherries, pickin'*, or *teckettle, teckettle, teckettle*, or *wha-ha, wha-ha, wha-ha*, but the bird was very shy for a long time; in fact, till the nest was built. Starting from the swamp, he would make a complete circuit of the village every day, but apparently never left the valley.

Early in June I noticed that he seemed to stick to one locality most of the time, so I did a little exploring on his account, but could find no signs of a nest or a mate. The property on which the bird seemed to be located being occupied by people with whom I was not acquainted, I felt a little delicate about asking to go over the place more than once, so I asked Mr. Lewis H. West, who owns the place, to ask his tenants if they would not watch the Wren and try to find the nest. "Why, yes," they told him, "the birds have their nest in the roof of the well." This was about the 25th of June.

We found the nest in one corner of the roof of the well, about ten feet from the ground. The well is less than forty feet from the house, and is used daily. One of the birds left the nest when we went to see it, but stayed close by on a hemlock till we left.

I did not have a chance to visit the nest again till the 10th of July, when I found three young birds in the nest, well feathered. The mother bird was feeding them at the time, and was not at all shy, alighting on the lattice work around the well, with a small green worm in her bill, and waiting till we withdrew.

I did not keep track of the young birds after that, but heard the old ones nearly every day for a long time. On Nov. 3, I heard two calling to each other, one on the hill, one in the swamp. The last time I heard anything of them was Nov. 22.

There can be no possible doubt as to the identification of the bird, for Mr. West and I both were within six feet of them twice, and I have often watched them at short distances with a field-glass, while the song itself is a pretty safe guide with that bird.

I have good reason to believe that this is the first record of the actual breeding of the Carolina Wren on Long Island.—CHAS. E. CONKLIN, Roslyn, Queen's Co., N. Y.

Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster,

15. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*.

First plumage: male. Top of head dark rusty, each feather edged and tipped broadly with dull black, the former color nearly eliminated by the latter on the crown and forehead. Under parts nearly as in adult, but more cinnamomeous; a few narrow, wavy, and somewhat badly defined transverse lines of black across the breast and abdomen. From a specimen in my collection shot at Petroleum, West Va., May 1, 1874.

Bull. N.O.C, 3, Jan., 1878. p. 21.

(From the American Naturalist, January, 1884.)

THE CAROLINA WREN; A YEAR OF ITS LIFE.

BY CHARLES C. ABBOTT, M.D.

EARLY in the morning of Sept. 1, 1882, as I was passing near the stable, my attention was called to the shrill notes of an excited little bird that, darting from the building, alighted on the fence near by and screamed *jimmée, jimmée, jimmée*, so loudly, that every James in the township should have hastened thither. No response came, and again the call, a clear, penetrating whistle, was repeated. This continued, at brief intervals, for two or three minutes, and then, as quickly as it came, the bird flew back to the stable, entering through a knot-hole in a weather-board with such rapidity of movement that I could but marvel at its dexterity.

Half an hour later I saw this same bird again, coming from the stable through the same knot-hole, and this time it sang as loudly, impatiently and frequently as before, but the notes were different. It said, or seemed to say, *tsau-ré-ta, tsau-ré-ta, tsau-ré-ta*. Had I not seen the bird I should have recognized it by a peculiarity in its song, which was never wanting whatever might be the particular notes it uttered. My attention being called to this little bird—the Carolina wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*)—I deter-

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

Thryothorus ludovicianus. CAROLINA WREN.

This species is of too irregular occurrence to afford the requisite data for a knowledge of its habits of song during the entire year. I have, however, heard its full song in April, May (June 24?) and August. Auk, I, April, 1884. 137.

Early Breeding of the Carolina
Wren near Philadelphia.

BY I. S. REIFF.

On the first day of May, 1880, when on a collecting trip, while walking along the bank of a small stream, I saw a Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), on a small sapling, singing in such a joyous manner as to proclaim to the world that the beautiful Spring had come once again. Not having a good specimen of this species in my collection, I shot the bird under the impulse of the moment, and a fine male was my reward. But, soon my joy was turned to grief, for I found that I had ruthlessly shot the father of a large family, and for many days I was sorry my old gun had carried so true to its mark.

In order to obtain the bird, I was compelled to cross the stream to the side where it lay, and the bank was about five feet high. When about half way up, imagine my surprise to hear a sound I knew at once was made by none other than young birds. I stopped and tried to locate it, but before doing so it had ceased. Making a slight noise with my foot it was repeated and this time I was more fortunate, and found it came from under a piece of sod that had become detached from the top of the bank and lodged in such a way as to form a cave-like apartment, only two feet from where I was standing, and a little higher up the bank.

Dropping on my knees I looked under the sod, and was very much astonished when my eyes rested upon the nest of this species, containing six young birds fully fledged and not less than two weeks old. After my amazement had somewhat abated, I felt in the nest thinking there might be an added egg; but when my finger touched it the six youngsters flew rapidly away, showing, though so young, they knew how to use their little wings.

I then went to the dead male, picked him up and packed him carefully in my bag, feeling very sorry for what I had so thoughtlessly done. In the meantime, the female was busy gathering her fatherless family, and after she took them a short distance down the stream, I

returned and examined the nest. On lifting it carefully, I found it was placed in a small cavity in the bank, about two inches deep and four inches in diameter, which must have been partly, if not all excavated by the parent birds. The bottom and sides of the nest were very thick, making a warm and comfortable bed for the young birds, and the edge projected about an inch above the cavity, making the depth about three inches in all. Although having a northern exposure, it was securely protected against wind and storm.

I consider this a rare case of early breeding in this locality, for allowing a week for nest building, another week for laying the eggs, eleven days for incubation, and stating the age of the young birds at two weeks, this pair of birds must have commenced building on the twenty-fifth of March.

On May 15 of the same year, I found a nest placed in a stone wall containing young birds not more than two days old. I hope other collectors will give the readers of the O. & O. their experience of the early breeding habits of this species in its northern and eastern habitat.

O. & O. XIII. Apr. 1888 p. 63

The Home of the Carolina Wren.

BY R. B. MC LAUGHLIN, STATESVILLE, N. C.

On an unusually bright and sunny day in January five years ago, becoming weary of the house, I shouldered my gun, whistled for my dog, and was soon off to the fields, whence the snow which had fallen a week prior had almost disappeared.

Having had luck after quail, I quitted the fields and took to the lowlands for the purpose of shooting the "cotton-tail" rabbit. While passing up a stream flowing across the place, about three feet high in a clump of ash trees, I observed an old coffee pot which had evidently been washed down from the village a mile above, and lodged there during high water. Having a morbid curiosity to take in everything, like most enthusiastic lovers of the feathered tribe, I began to scrutinize this weather-beaten relic. The pot was lying rather horizontally, yet there was sufficient slant to turn the top slightly up, with the bottom resting firmly against a tree, while the pot was supported on either side by trees which joined near the ground. The spout was turned downward and the lid missing. The snow which had fallen into the pot, had melted and been drained off through the spout, exposing a bird's nest half filling the inside, which I readily identified as that of the Carolina Wren (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*), the only species of wren breeding in this locality, and one of our most cheerful songsters. Being familiar with the habits of this bird, I took note of it, resolving to visit the spot during the next breeding season.

On my return in the spring, I found the old nest was being nicely remodeled, and new material added; while on a subsequent visit it contained four eggs,—the usual number being five, yet the set was complete and incubation begun. I remembered Samuel Rogers and "The martin's old hereditary nest," saying and feeling with all my heart "Long may the ruin spare its hallowed guest."

I rather wanted the nest but was not in spe-

cial need of the eggs, so I determined to leave this strange home undisturbed, though I confess somewhat reluctantly at first. This nest was occupied for several consecutive seasons, but the pot has lately been removed.

The Carolina Wren, a common bird with us throughout the year, is one of the first to herald a break of the winter; selecting the pinnacle of some out-building or the topmost point of a pile of wood as a favorite perch from which it utters a song exceedingly loud for a bird of its size, and one in which I assume the Mockingbird takes delight, as there is none which he imitates with more frequency or greater accuracy.

Though this bird most frequently nests about old buildings wherever it finds a suitable place, it will build almost anywhere; in ivy vines, the crotches of trees, banks of small streams, sheaves of wheat and in a single instance I have found its nest on the open ground.

One morning I observed a pair carrying leaves and moss toward the barn, but supposing its nest could be found at any time I paid little attention to them. On the following day it was not so easily found as I had imagined, and it was after a diligent search that I found it in the tar bucket which hung in the wagon shed. A week later, becoming curious, I peeped into the bucket, and there—sad mishap!—was Mr. Wren down in the pitch and held fast. Yes, he had departed this life some days ago. I was sad, but entertain grave doubts about Mrs. Wren's having nursed much of the "silent sorrow" mentioned by Byron, since she mated with indecent haste, perhaps taking the philosophic view that her mate was about as dead as he would ever be; and on the third day after finding him she had repaired to a cavity in an old apple tree but a short distance from that wagon shed and was forming a nest. There was no doubt as to her being the same bird as she had a mass of tar on her head, which subsequently removed all the feathers, leaving her head completely bald. I took some fellow collectors to see her, who decided she had been here for some time. She reared her brood in the old apple tree.

A pair built annually in a wooden wheel, which was among the ruins of an old cotton gin that had been used during the days of slavery; while another pair on the place selected a negro's cupboard as a suitable place for its nest. It built there but once.

Having observed this bird closely from my infancy I decided long since that it would never be troubled to find a place for its nest.

Nesting of the Carolina Wren.

While the Carolina Wren is reported as occurring in nearly all parts of the state of Pennsylvania, it is exceedingly abundant along the Wissahickon Creek, Philadelphia.

This rather shy bird spends most of its time in the vicinity of water, around bush piles and old logs, and may often be seen circling about the trunks of trees, collecting beetles and insects.

I have found as high as thirteen nests of this species in two days, all of which were built in the ruined walls of old houses and mills, except two, which were constructed in holes in stumps of trees. The nest is composed of moss, leaves, weeds, and grass.

The eggs, generally six or seven in number, creamy white, spotted and blotched with reddish brown and lilac, measure about .56 x .75 to .60 x .80.

I would like to hear (through the columns of this paper) from some of the readers of the "O & O." as to the abundance of the Carolina Wren in their States.

M. L. C. Wilde.

Nesting Habits of Texas Birds.
H. P. Atwater, London, Ontario, Can.

Carolina Wren, (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*).
Not plentiful but undoubtedly build nests in
the higher portion of the river bottom, among
old logs and stumps above high water line.

O. & O. XII. July 1887 p. 104.

172. *Great Carolina Wren*. By William Dutcher. *Ibid.*, XVI, July 14, 1881, p. 473.—Record of its capture at Greenville, N. J., within four miles of New York City. *For. & Stream*

617. *The Great Carolina Wren in Connecticut*. By C. H. Neff. *Ibid.*, No. 8, p. 47.—Taken at Portland, Conn., March 2, 1883. (Same specimen also recorded in Bull. N. O. C., VIII, 120.) *For. & Stream*, Vol. X

1933. *Carolina Wren*. By J. W. Jacobs. '*The Hawkeye Ornithologist and Oslogist*,' Vol. I, No. 3, March, 1888, p. 37.—Nests and eggs.

783. *The Carolina Wren; a Year of its Life*. By Charles C. Abbott, M. D. *American Naturalist*, Vol. XVIII, pp. 21-25.

Amer. Naturalist, XVIII

Common Names of American Birds.. Ingersoll.

Skipping such terms as *Brown Creeper*, *Oven-bird*, and others readily understood, I come to the varied tribe of Wrens, about which in the Old World so much of personal affection and legendary, not to say superstitious, interest gathers. *Wren* derives from an ancient root *wrin*, whence, we are told, came Anglo-Saxon words meaning to neigh (as a horse), squeal (as a pig) or chirp (as a sparrow). But the neighing horse and squealing pig of which these words were always used were uncastrated animals; and the literal meaning of *wrenne* in the Anglo-Saxon was the "little lascivious bird." Few words have suffered or admitted of less change than this during all the centuries of vicissitude through which it has passed. None of the names of our representatives of this family require special mention; it may be mentioned, however, that *Telmatorhynchus palustris* is *Tomtit* in South Carolina and *Reed Warbler* in Rhode Island.

The Frenchmen in Louisiana in the early days gave to their familiar Wren (probably the *Thryothorus ludovicianus*) the name *Roitelet* or "Little King." This was a direct importation from Europe, and perpetuated a bit of folk-lore, which tells us that the Wren is the superior of the Eagle, and hence King of the birds, but a diminutive King,—hence Kinglet or *Roitelet*. This supremacy was attained by the trial of the birds, in congress assembled, as to which had the greatest powers of flight. The Eagle soaring above all the rest, thought himself *facile princeps*, when an impudent little beggar of a Wren that had slyly perched upon the Eagle's broad back, rose gayly over his head, repeating the maneuver as often as the baffled "King" attempted to get above him. Ever afterward the Eagle was properly respectful in the presence of the mite of a Wren that had outwitted his majesty. Many forms of this myth appear, and sometimes the statements are given as facts. Thus it is hard to tell whether or not DuPratz believes the story he tells in his "History" to account for the Kingship of Le Roitelet in Louisiana. In America we do not regard the Wren with special kindness; but in Great Britain, it is scarcely ever spoken of without some gentle, loving epithet; and the word "poor," "little," "tiny," or "dear" is constantly joined to the prefix Jenny, Kitty, Titty (cf. *antè Tit*), Jintie, or Chitty when naming it. *Bull. N. O. C.* 3, *April*, 1888, p. 77-

Thyothorus
Bewickii

Thryothorus bewickii.

Alton, New Hampshire.

1890. I have a Bewick's Wren in my collection that was killed April 25. in Alton, April 25, 1890. Late in the fall of the same year I saw another in a marsh at the head of Suncook pond. This wren is not often found in New Hampshire.

Page 32. Birds of Belknap and Merrimack Counties,
New Hampshire. Ned Dearborn, Durham, N.H., 1898.
-----"-----

It was "in a bunch of small bushes on an inundated marsh. It sat quite fearlessly within 10 ft. of me and clearly exposed to view" Ned Dearborn in letter on file of Feb. 7, 1899.

-----"-----

This specimen, a mounted bird in good condition, was sent me for examination by Mr. Dearborn, Feb. 7, 1899. It proved to be a Bewick's Wren of the typical form. The coloring of the upper parts was darker than usual and the under parts were somewhat soiled - as if by coal dust. The middle tail feathers were slightly worn but the remainder of the plumage in good condition. One wing measured 2.10 in., the other 1.96. Tail, 1.97; tarsus, .71; culmen from feathers, .50; from nostril, .36; depth of bill at nostril, .14.

Note by William Brewster on the margin of Mr. Dearborn's pamphlet, p. 32.

Thryothorus bewickii
(?) Amherst, Mass

My dear Mr Brewster.

You will perhaps
recall that I wrote
you earlier in the
year inquiring about
a Wren I saw in
Amherst. You sug-
gested that it might
be Bewick's.

After further obser-
vation and examina-
tion of specimens, both

at Cambridge & the
"Natural History Rooms"
in the city, I am sat-
isfied that it was
Derwick's. At least
I could decide upon
nothing else.

The birds may have
nested, for they were
about the old or-
chard the first
week in August.

Cordially

Richard A. Bryant.
Rochester, 12 Sept 99.

Troglodytes
aethiops

Troglodytes aedon

Eastern Massachusetts.

1889 Mass.

May Belmont. Two or three males seen by Batchelder & Dwight

" Melrose Highlands & Stoneham. - "I never see many House Wrens.

One sings daily near me and I have heard one in Stoneham" (Towry, let. May 20/89)

" 24 Belmont & Arlington. Batchelder & Dwight tell me that during the past ten days they have met with at least seven House Wrens during their collecting trips. Batchelder found a nest May in a brick stub. It had one egg. Most of their birds have been seen or heard in apple orchards along retired lanes near Arlington Heights.

" 26 In the old apple orchard on Spring Lane, Belmont, Nest, 7 eggs. Bolles found a nest containing seven perfectly fresh eggs. The nest was in a Woodpecker's hole in the under side of a nearly horizontal branch. At least four pairs of Wrens birds were seen by B. to-day in and near this orchard

" 29 Watertown. - A ♂ singing in the apple orchard west of the Catholic Cemetery woods and a pair at the eastern base of French's Hill. I shot both the latter and found that the ♀ had finished laying & was incubating. The male sang a few times in an apple tree, then descended to a pile of brush. Song when sitting very erect with tail depressed he panned out his rich quacking little song many times in succession. *I incubating*

June 23 Cambridge. - A ♂ singing in an apple orchard on Fresh Pond Lane near Gray's Pond.

Troglodytes aedon.

Concord, Mass.
May 24 1893.

A House Wren, the first I have noted this season, was singing in an orchard near the brick place in Northam an old-time locality for this species. Faxon tells me that he heard it make singing, singing at North well, the other morning, in Arlington & Belmont.

House Wren

Mt. Washington, N. H.
Arlington, Mass.

House Wrens. *Troglodytes aedon*.

My brother says that the House Wren that breed in places remote from houses near the base of Mt. Washington, have a song different from our Wrens, much like the ^{song} ~~Every~~-billed Marsh Wren's. Do you make any account of the E. americanus or Wood Wren of Audubon? My brother found a nest in a low stump and thought the eggs normal.

Walter Faxon (letter December 4, 1891).

Troglodytes aedon

1889 Mass.

Aug 9 Melrose Highlands. - "A Wren has been singing daily up to that date" (B. Torrey in letter Aug. 12/89) Singing ends.

June 8 Mt. Auburn - Belmont - Arlington. - Heard a ♂ singing on the Bird place near Mt. Auburn. I have noted only two others this season both on May in Waltham but Faxon tells me that knows of at least eight pairs breeding in old orchards between Barnaby and Mystic Pond Arlington, along the great ridge connecting Barnaby with Arlington. He heard five different birds singing in this region one morning within a week.

"12 Belmont. - Heard 5 different ♂♂ singing, all in apple orchards within 1/2 mile of the Cherry Stock farm, two being in the same orchard. The song is prefaced by a few low grating notes as if the bird had difficulty in getting started. Faxon showed me the nest of one pair, nest in a very small hole which entered directly downward. The ♀ came out when we tapped on the stump. He did not open the hole.

1894

May Andover. - A male song for several days in succession in the orchard on the Deane's place - an old-timer but long since abandoned breeding station. George Deane put at bay but the Wren departed soon afterwards & was not again seen or heard.

1896

June 1-15 Concord. - "One or two Horn Wrens which I first noticed June 1 have been since singing almost constantly in Mr. Lundy's orchard back of our house" (W. W. Bartlett, letter June 15, 1896)

1898 NH.

June 14-15 Woburn. appear to have deserted the town. [Journ.].

July 2-4 Glendale (in or near). Three singing in the village. [Journ.].

Troglodytes aedon.

nesting in
Cambridge, Mass.

✓
sent to
and kept

Dear Mr. Deane:

I received your postal
this morning and will
tell you all I know about
the Wren.

There was a little stunted
apple tree in our side yard
with several dead branches
in it. I heard the Wrens
about the yard for a day or
so before I looked for the
nest. I found it in a
hollow made by a woodpecker.
They had started in a hole
just above and on the other
side but after putting in
a few sticks, deserted it.

Troglodytes aedon.

nesting in
Cambridge, Mass.

for I was in Europe. They
haven't been about this year
as far as I know.

This and a Wren I heard
singing in Mount Auburn
Cemetery the 14th of this month
are the only instances I know
of Wrens about our house.

I saw ninety four birds
this May, among them ~~saw~~
a Cape May Warbler in the
Hill ^(May 15) ^(P.S.E. & J) Grey Place near Fresh
Pond Lane. We were very
positive of him as we made
out all the markings down to
the rufous behind the ears. We
had Chapman with us. On
the 26th we saw a Blackburnian
Warbler on Turlsey Hill

Hoping that you will have a
very pleasant summer I
remain very sincerely yours
A. J. Alder

Monday June 27, 1911

P.S.

Do you suppose that the
Alder Flycatcher was shot
or went North? He seemed
to be here a long time for
a migrant, & he was
well able to fly.

Troglodytes aëdon.

Nesting in
Cambridge, Mass.

The final nest was made,
as usual, of sticks and there
were four or five eggs. I
first saw the birds on June
10th ¹⁸⁹⁹ and have records of
them every day till the twenty
ninth when I left for
Michigan.

Whether or not the brood was
successful I do not know, but
the locality was ^{fairly} safe from cats
and squirrels & no boys but
my friends knew of the
nest so I suppose they were
reared in safety.

The nest was intact in the
fall. The tree has since been cut
down and I do not know if
the Wrens returned last spring.

Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.

12. *Troglodytes aëdon* Vieill. HOUSE WREN.—At Grand Falls one pair was noticed which had a nest in the frame work of a barn.

Bull. N. O. C., 7, April, 1882, p. 109

Birds of Sudbury, Ont.
A. H. Alberger.

721. House Wren. Tolerably common.

O. S. C. I. Y. Bull., 1890, p. 83

Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region,
Nipissing District, Ontario.

by Frederick C. Spidel, Auk x LV, Jan., 1902, p. 52.

67. *Troglodytes aëdon*. HOUSE WREN.—Twice met with, August 4.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming,

Part II, Land Birds,

Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 85.

272. *Troglodytes aëdon*. HOUSE WREN.—Common migrant and fairly common summer resident, April 21 to October 13; earliest spring record, April 15, 1890; breeds.

A Roosting Place of Fledgling House Wrens.—A pair of House Wrens which had bred in a box in Mr. George Nelson's garden in Lexington, Mass., brought out their second brood of young in the morning of Aug. 19, 1917. The family remained in the vicinity of the box during the day. At twilight Mr. Nelson watched one of the parents assemble the young birds in a pitch pine tree near the box, and escort them to a little nest or platform well concealed among the pine needles where they settled for the night, huddled together in a compact mass. The Wrens' roosting place is five feet from the ground and twelve feet from the box they were reared in. It is a frail, circular, shallow cup, made of fine roots and was originally no doubt, the foundation of a Chipping Sparrow's nest. On the following night the young birds, after making a tour over the space of half an acre, during which they visited another nest twenty yards away, returned to the same place to roost. On the next evening (Aug. 21) I joined Mr. Nelson and we watched the fledglings for half an hour at the close of their third day. They were in a pitch pine tree across the driveway from the roost. One or both parents brought food to them every five or ten minutes. These visits occasioned a lively chattering which resembled the clucking of Red-winged Blackbirds on a small scale. After the parent's departure the young birds quieted, although they often continued to give single, double, or triple chucks for a minute or two. Finally, as it was growing dark, about 6.45, all the young birds (five of them) fluttered across the drive and joined their parent. As the little, tailless birds flew overhead in quick succession, they appeared against the sky like tiny Woodcocks rising for a song flight. Nothing could be plainer than that the flight was in obedience to a command from the old bird,— the fledglings started at almost the same instant and hurried off all together. Tonight, under the guidance of the parent, they took a direction away from their former roost. We followed and found three of them in the abandoned nest which they visited last evening. On our arrival they came out and with much chattering withdrew. Twice a bird returned, hopped about the nest for a moment and then flew away. The family settled near, just where we could not see. On the following evening we saw or heard nothing of the brood at twilight.

It would be of interest to learn whether this use of abandoned nests of other birds is a common practice with the House Wren, especially when we recall that the male of some species of wrens builds seemingly useless nests while the female is sitting.— WINSOR M. TYLER, M. D., *Lexington, Mass.*

Auk. Vol. XXXIV. Oct. 1917. p. 485-486.

N. H. (Wolfenb.)

Troglodytes aëdon

1888

Breeding

June 19

A ♂ singing in the village, no
Eng. Sparrows seen there

Eds. Obs. at Franconia and Bethlehem
N.H. July-August, 1874. J.A. Allen

45. *Troglodytes aëdon*. Seen a few times at Franconia.

Auk, V. April, 1888, p.155

73. *Troglodytes aedon. HOUSE WREN. — Rare; Mrs. Straw reports
that she has not seen them for a number of years. *Journal of Field Ornithology*
x *For Mrs. Carrie E. Straw of Stone, Vt.* *Vol. 1001, p. 245*

Mass. (Watertown)

1887 - May 9. At the cross roads near
the Trickey place I heard a House Wren
in full song this morning

Troglodytes aëdon.

Mass. (Milton)

Troglodytes aëdon

1887

July 17

At Cherry Hill, Milton, on the Cabot place
I heard a House Wren in full song
this afternoon. I have heard only one
other this season in Waltham, last May.
Mr. Purdie, however, tells me that
a pair have bred in a box in a
garden in West Newton. They were protected
by the owner of the grounds who
has shot some forty English Sparrows
there.

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Troglodytes aëdon Vieill., House Wren.
Summer resident, tolerably common. Breeds.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 141

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire
Co. Mass. June 28-July 16. W. Faxon

67. *Troglodytes aëdon*. HOUSE WREN.—This bird was observed in
its half-domesticated state near farmhouses in Williamstown, and a few
were found remote from human habitations on the mountain sides where
the forest had been cut off and where the dead stubs seemed to afford
them a congenial home. In such places the Olive-sided Flycatcher also is
pretty sure to be found. The Wrens are quite shy in such localities, seem-
ing to retain the primitive habits of their race.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 105

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire
Co. Mass. June 17-23, '88. W. Faxon

70. *Troglodytes aëdon*. HOUSE WREN.—Common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 46

Troglodytes aedon.

Concord, Mass.

1899. * One singing in the orchard on the George Keyes place
June. June 5th was the only bird that I met with. I did not hear
 it after this date although I frequently visited the orchard.

Connecticut, June, 1893.

Troglodytes aedon

June 3rd 4¹⁰ Fairfield

" 6th 10th Saybrook

" 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th Andover

In Saybrook where English Sparrows
were numerous we found only two
pairs & those were both of the
same date as the others were taken.
At Andover where there were
practically no Sparrows (certainly not
more than ten or fifteen pairs) the
young birds were nesting in the
hedge & the willows as well as in
about every orchard outside. They
were equally common in the
open about Fairfield where
however the Sparrows kept them
out & in places where they
were not so common.

Birds observed in Naval Hospital
Grounds, Brooklyn. G.H. Coues

26. *Troglodytes aëdon*. HOUSE WREN.—Common; breeds.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 32

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
O. H. Merriam.

17. *Troglodytes aëdon*, *Vieillot*. HOUSE WREN.—Confined, so far
I can ascertain, to the borders of the wilderness, where it breeds.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, Oct. 1881, p. 227

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886,
Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Paine, Jr.

May 11, *Troglodytes aëdon*, (731). House Wren.

O. & O. XI, Aug. 1886, p. 125

Oneida County, New York,
William L. Ralph & Egbert Bagg

Troglodytes aëdon.—Perhaps the strangest observation we have to record is the entire disappearance of this species which was ten or fifteen years ago one of our most abundant species, nesting in dozens of bird houses in the city and in every empty shed and wooden bridge in the country. In the List it is given as "a summer resident, not nearly so common as formerly, breeds." Since that was written four years have passed during which, of the four workers whose observations are here recorded, only one has seen a single specimen of this bird. Since 1837 not a single one has been observed. We are unable even to suggest an explanation of this mystery. Auk, VII. July, 1890, p. 232

Birds of Oneida County, New York,
Egbert Bagg.

Troglodytes aëdon.—I am happy to say that these birds, which had entirely disappeared for several years, have reappeared. I have records of several pairs breeding in this locality in 1893.

Auk XI. April 1894 p. 164

Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster.

16. *Troglodytes aëdon*.

First plumage: female. Upper parts more reddish than in adult: throat, jugulum, and breast pale fulvous-white, each feather on breast tipped with pale drab, giving that part of the plumage a delicately scutellate appearance. Abdomen whitish; sides, anal region, and crissum dull rusty-brown, becoming almost chestnut on the crissum. No trace of bars on feathers of the body either above or beneath. From specimen in my collection shot at Cambridge, Mass., July 9, 1873.

Bull. N.O.C. 3, Jan., 1878, p. 21.

Troglodytes aëdon. HOUSE WREN.

From its arrival late in April until after midsummer the full song of the House Wren is to be heard, and, though sometimes ending with July, it is often continued through the first week of August. August 15 is my latest date for the true nuptial song. Usually before this time, when singing continues so late, the song begins to change, and, becoming increasingly weaker and less defined, may be extended beyond the middle of the month. With the change of song a change of habits begins, and likewise gradually progresses. The birds forsake the vicinity of dwellings and their accessory buildings, of which for more than three months they have been familiar and self-assertive occupants. To the lay observer they have disappeared, but the experienced eye will detect them inhabiting the rocks and shrubbery of wild and unfrequented localities, often remote from human habitation. In such places the autumn song is to be heard, though to one familiar only with the characteristic song of the earlier season its authorship would hardly be suspected. It has none of the spontaneity and vigor of the spring song, but is a low, rambling warble. I have listened certainly a full minute while it continued without interruption. An approach to this song may sometimes be heard when the species is becoming silent in August, as I have already stated; while in September a decided reversion towards the spring song is sometimes noticeable.

Although the bird regularly sings in the autumn, at this season its subdued song and retiring disposition render it easily overlooked; so that absence of records of song in the autumn at a time when observation in other years has shown the bird to sing, cannot be taken as a guarantee of silence, as it could be in the case of a more conspicuous species. The precise limits of the autumn song-period I have not yet been able clearly to define, but it may be said in general terms that singing begins early in September, continuing through this month and sometimes into October. Extreme dates are August 24 and October 7; more usual limits would fall in the first and fourth weeks of September. In several years I have noted imperfect songs in the fourth week of August, about midway between the two seasons of song. These seemingly misplaced songs I have usually considered as appertaining to the song-period from which they were separated by the least interval of time. But they may be wholly aberrant; or the two song-periods may sometimes be connected; or perhaps in some years the first song-period is prolonged and the second does not occur; for in more than one instance I have noticed that an undue extension of the first song-period seems to be at the expense of the second. Either of these suppositions could be supported by my records of certain years, but recalling the likelihood of the bird to be overlooked in the autumn, we find ourselves justified in no conclusions without more extended data.

How far birds of the year enter into the subject of change of song in the autumn with this species cannot at present be said; but a male bird shot while singing on September 1, 1880, was in fine plumage and bore every indication of being fully adult. I find this species in the autumn without much fat, and with feather-growth continuing slightly into October.

Birds Tioga Co, N.Y. Alden Loring.

63. House Wren. Common. Builds in Martin boxes and natural cavities of trees. The eggs, six to eight in number, usually six, are of a pale reddish flesh color, covered with fine dots and sprinklings of a darker color. The measurement of the egg is 5-8 in. by 15-32 in. Occasionally two broods are reared in one season. The nest is composed of sticks, horse hair and feathers, is very bulky and neatly constructed; the hollow is quite deep. This pugnacious little bird is a very industrious nest builder, carrying sticks three to four inches in length.

O. & O. XV. June, 1890, p. 82

PERSISTENCY AT NEST-BUILDING IN A HOUSE-WREN.—A House-Wren (*Troglodytes aëdon*) has this season manifested a strong predilection for the nozzle of a pump for a nesting-site. The pump being in daily use, the nozzle, much to our surprise, was repeatedly found to be obstructed with sticks. An investigation of the novel incident led to the discovery of the cause, it being found that a House-Wren was industriously at work carrying materials into the pump for the construction of its nest. The bird was finally left one morning to carry on his work, when, at the end of two hours, it was found that he had filled the pump so full that water could not be obtained until a part of the sticks had been removed. The nest, through the necessary use of the pump, was three times destroyed before the persevering little fellow abandoned his work. — ABBOTT W. FRAZAR, Watertown, Mass. **Bull. N. O. C. 2, July, 1877, p. 78.**

Sketches from Terrebonne Parish Louisiana, by E. C. W.

Contemporary with the Mockingbirds in season of breeding are the House Wrens. I observed the first completely fledged young of this species this year on the 9th of April. These Wrens breed here in profusion; and they are not particular as to where they build their nests, for I have found them breeding in woodland stumps, mortices in fence posts, old cattle skulls, and two of my friends, not given to oological inquiry,

Rare and Curious Birds' Nests.

Few birds are less regardful of position than the Wren. In June, 1882, near the town of Thornbury, Pa., a pair of Wrens selected the space in a stationary block over a sheave in a derrick, as a site for a home, and therein deposited their favorite sticks and feathers. A similar structure had occupied the same spot the previous year, and a brood of young ones raised. These nests, in the elements of composition, differed not from the typical form. It is their strange and anomalous situation, rather than anything else, that excites our interest and astonishment. The materials of the nest were so dexterously arranged as not to interfere with the revolution of the wheel. The entrance to the nest was on the side facing the rope that moved the pulley. The opposite side could have been used for this purpose, and doubtless with less danger to life or limb, but a preference seems to have been shown for the other. Why this was so remained an unsolved problem for some time; but when each bird was seen to alight upon the rope at the top of the derrick and ride down to the nest, the reason became apparent. Never did I meet enjoy the rocking twig with half the zest that these eccentric creatures did their ride down the rope. A hundred times a day, when the necessity arose, they treated themselves to the same pleasure, the rope moving at the rate of thirty-five feet in a second of time. Six days out of seven, from morning until night, they had the benefit of this mode of conveyance, and nothing occurred to disturb their peace and harmony. In due time a family of happy, rollicking children was raised, and the nest in the derrick deserted.

Prof. Thomas L. Sontag
O. & O. X. July, 1885, p. 112

Manitoba Birds, April, 1885.
Robert Miller Christy.

One one occasion I was told that a Wren, (*Troglodytes aëdon*.) had built its nest in the pocket of a coat hung on the door of a ferryman's house on the Souris River.

O. & O. X. May, 1885, p. 77

Unusual Nesting.

I have received from Mr. William A. Mastin the following, dated Williamsburg, W. Va., February 17, 1892: "I mailed you yesterday a set of Wren's eggs found in a hay mow on Cherry River on the last day of January. Is it a usual occurrence? I have the nest; will send or bring it out if you wish. . . ." The eggs undoubtedly belong to the House Wren (*Troglodytes aëdon*), but average slightly larger. Mr. Mastin's address is Richmond, Nicholas County, W. Va.

I found, on blowing, the eggs were perfectly fresh. They were five in number, but two, unfortunately, were broken. Thad. Surber. White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

O. & O. Vol. 17, April 1892 p. 59

Unusual Nesting Sites
by J. P. W.

The present writer can recall a somewhat similar instance to that related by Mr. Bryant. In this case a pair of House Wrens (*Troglodytes aëdon*) chose a box for their nesting place, that

was intended to shelter a clothes-line. The rope was wound around a spindle inside the box, and the birds made their entrance into the box through the hole that was left for the line to pass out. Here they built their nest on the top of the rope. Every Monday morning the clothes-line was unwound to hang the family wash upon it, and then there would appear at the bottom of the box the rubbish that the wrens had brought in to construct their nest. For several weeks the birds persevered, constructing their nest with infinite labor, only to find it pulled to pieces each week when the rope was unwound.

O. & O. XII. Sept. 1887 p. 144 -145

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O. & O. X, Dec. 1885, p. 190

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O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 144 - 145

Troglodytes aëdon, House Wren, Breeding in a Sand Bank.—Of all the quaint places this familiar little busybody could choose in which to lay its eggs and rear its young, one might imagine a sand bank, the common home of Bank Swallows and Kingfishers, to be the most singular and unusual. The fact that a House Wren might be found thus breeding may not be surprising to all observing ornithologists, but it certainly must be to most of them. On August 1, 1888, while Dr. B. H. Warren, State Ornithologist of Pennsylvania, and I were driving up one of the ravines leading from the beautiful Bay at Erie, Pennsylvania, the Doctor's keen eye caught sight of a House Wren as it darted into a Kingfisher's hole in the almost perpendicular bank about ten feet from the roadway. By the aid of a fence rail and easy digging the young, already able to fly, were caught in the hand, and the nest secured. I had already been interested in observing a pair of Wrens that had taken possession of a Bluebird's nest in the hollow limb of an apple tree in the dooryard of my summer house, but the taking for its own domicile this home of our large Kingfisher cast completely into the shade all I had known of the bird's housekeeping achievements, in which tin pails, kettles, skulls, and the like had figured.—GEO. B. SENNETT, *New York City*.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 76

Troglodytes aëdon, House Wren, Building in a Hornets' Nest.—Among the variety of novel nesting places chosen by this little bird, I probably have witnessed one unobserved before by ornithologists. On May 18, 1889, near Chelsea, Delaware Co., Pennsylvania, I observed a pair of Wrens diligently engaged in lugging sticks into a large hornets' nest, which was hanging under the cornice of an old farmhouse. Near the top of the nest a cavity had been excavated, evidently by the birds, as the ground underneath was strewn with its fragments. I was unable afterwards to visit that locality, but from inquiry feel confident, they succeeded in rearing their brood unmolested.—J. HARRIS REED, *Chester, Pa.*

Auk, VI. Oct., 1889. p. 339-340

THE NEST OF THE HOUSE WREN.—Some writer speaks of the well known habit of the House Wren of filling up any cavity within which it builds its nest with sticks and rubbish, as a "survival" of an old habit for which there would seem to be no present use. I think I have seen this statement in some of the writings of Dr. Elliott Coues, though I cannot refer to the book or page. Possibly it may have been stated by some one else. But it is a generally recognized fact that if a box holds half a peck the little birds will fill it up full! It seems to me, however, that while this may be really a "survival," it is still a most useful habit. When a hole or space is so filled the nest proper is generally built on the side of the mass of rubbish opposite to the entrance and as far as possible from it. Manifestly there is a clear purpose in this—viz: that of protection, from any enemy seeking an entrance. I have observed many nests, in large cigar boxes, and in the majority find this state of things to exist. The interior space will be filled with sticks, leaving a little passage way over the top, through which the bird can reach the nest on the back side of the rubbish. It seems to me that this is clearly a defensive habit, necessary at this time. When they build a nest in the skull of a horse or ox, it will be found that they follow the same rule, and that it will be very difficult to get at the nests.

But their practices are sometimes varied. If a box is not too large, and the hole is only large enough to admit of the passage of the birds, they will often carry in only just enough material to build the nest, leaving the space all open above. I have often known them to pursue this course in building in a cigar box where a small hole had been made at the middle of one of the sides. But if the box is a large one with a large hole cut through the end near the top, as it is suspended on a tree or the side of a building, then they will carry in "fully a peck of rubbish," and build the soft nest down on the side opposite the entrance.—CHARLES ALDRICH, *Webster City, Iowa*. **Bull. N. O. C. 7, July, 1882, p. 150-181.**

The Oologist. 1574. *A Warm Place for a Nest.* By M[aurice] G. K[ains]. *Ibid.*, **Auk**, VII, Jan. 1890, p. vi.

The Oologist. 1598. *An Odd Nesting Place.* By W. J. S[impson]. *Ibid.*, p. 40.
—House Wrens nesting in a vane. **Auk**, VII, Jan. 1890, p. vi.

459. *Value of the House Wren as an Insect Destroyer.* By Charles Aldrich. *Ibid.*, XV, pp. 318, 319. **Amer. Naturalist**.

The Oologist. 1602. *House Wren.* By C[arleton] G[ilbert]. *Ibid.*, pp. 74-75.—Egg-laying. **Auk**, VII, Jan. 1890, p. vi.

Young Oologist. 1562. *Wrens on the War Path.* By H. K. Landis. *Ibid.*, p. 31. **Auk**, VII, Jan. 1890, p. vi.

Hylemathrous vs. *Troglodytes* for the House Wren.—In 'The Birds of Massachusetts' (p. 92) Mr. G. M. Allen and I used *Hylemathrous* for the generic name of the House Wren for reasons then in our estimation out of place to explain. In its adoption, however, we followed the accepted methods of scientific nomenclature.

Vieillot was first to separate Wrens from Warblers when he in 1807 (*Hist. Naturelle des Oiseaux*, p. 52) restricted the name *Troglodytes* to the true Wrens, including the European Wren (*Troglodytes parvulus*) as well as our American species *aidon*, which is the only one he deals with in full, for the reason he was writing only on North American birds. He specified no type, and if he had not stated the inclusion of the European bird the mere fact that he took the specific name of the European species for his generic term would imply that he included it. In 1816 in his 'Analyse' (p. 45) he restricted *Thryothorus*, and made the type *arundinaceus*. Rennie in 1831 (Montagu's Dict. British Birds, 2nd. ed., p. 579), considering *Troglodytes*, a word meaning a cave dweller, not applicable for the Wrens called them *Anorthura*. This simple name substitution to suit Rennie's taste of course does not affect the type, and he made no restrictions whatever. We have then next to go to Prince Maximilian (Beitr. Naturg. Bras., III, 1830, p. 742), who suggested *Hylemathrous* for a South American species, *T. furvus*, our House Wren *aidon*, and also included in his separation *Thryothorus arundinaceus* of Vieillot, which he considered = to *Cistothorus palustris*, and not as now understood, *T. ludoviciana*. This name *Hylemathrous* was also in 1860 accepted and restricted by Cabanis (*Jour. für Ornith.*, VIII, p. 406, 407).

Hylemathrous then being used for the House Wren leaves *Troglodytes* by elimination for the European Wren and our Winter Wren, which is congeneric with the European species.

Prof. Newton in his 'Dictionary' (p. 1051) in discussing this case says: "A few, who ignore not only common sense but also the accepted rules of scientific nomenclature, by a mistaken view of Vieillot's intention in establishing the genus *Troglodytes*, reserve that term for some American species—which can hardly be generically separated from the European form.—and have attempted to fix on the latter the generic term *Anorthura*, which is its strict equivalent, and was proposed by Rennie on grounds that are inadmissible."—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., Longwood, Mass. **Auk**, XIX, Jan., 1902, pp. 89, 90.